

**Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey
Reconnaissance Survey Final Report
of**

Keya Paha County, Nebraska

prepared for

**Nebraska State Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office**

by

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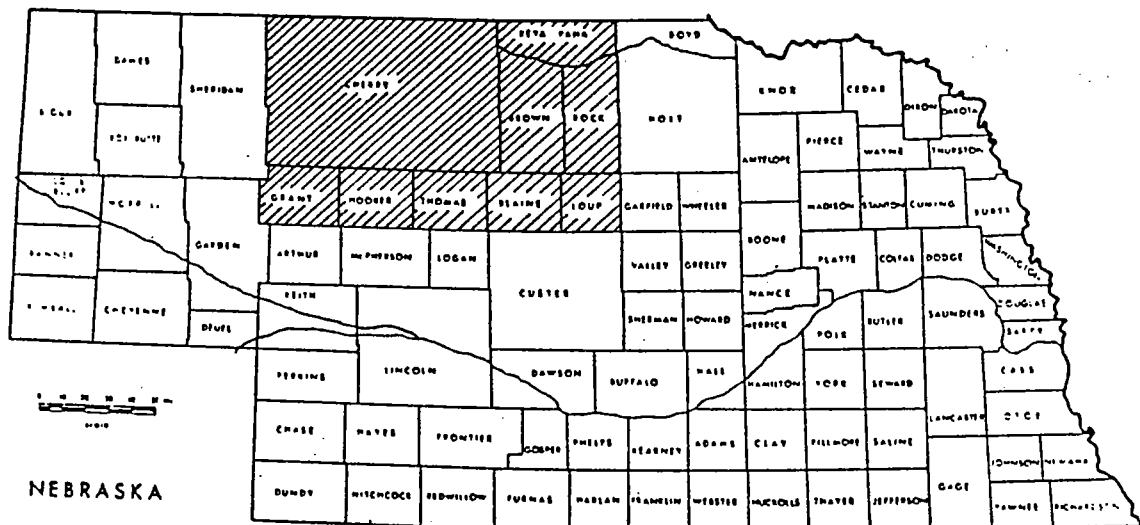
INTRODUCTION

In 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act was passed by the 89th United States Congress and subsequently signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. With this Act, the Secretary of the Interior was called upon to expand and maintain a national register of historic places and give maximum encouragement to state governments to develop statewide historic preservation programs of their own. The Act recognized that one of the prerequisites for an effective national preservation program was the identification of historic resources across the country through comprehensive statewide surveys. Thus, state historic preservation offices were made responsible under the National Historic Preservation Act for decisions concerning the preservation of historic properties in their states.

The manifestation of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act for Nebraska came in 1967 when state legislation directed the Nebraska State Historical Society to oversee the preservation of historical properties and conduct a comprehensive statewide historic survey. For this, the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NeHBS) was formed and is conducted by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO) as a part of the Nebraska State Historical Society. The NeHBS is an ongoing statewide study designed to identify and evaluate properties within a selected area to determine whether they may be of historic, architectural, archeological, or cultural significance. This statewide survey, begun in 1974, is the foundation of local, state, and national preservation efforts. It provides basic information on Nebraska's historic places for use in identifying those worthy

of preservation. The program focuses on historic buildings but also includes districts, landscapes, structures, sites and objects. Surveys are conducted on a county by county basis, with subsequent efforts aimed at individual communities and neighborhoods or specific kinds of buildings representing important themes in state and local history. The NeSHPO serves as the central repository for the collected information and becomes the focal point for preservation planning decisions.

Starting with a limited survey of 125 sites, the NeHBS has now documented approximately 39,000 properties and completed preliminary fieldwork in over two-thirds of Nebraska's 93 counties. The latest effort of the NeSHPO to document historic resources is the completion of the Northern Nebraska Sandhills Historic Building Survey.



Northern Nebraska Sandhills Survey Area

Save America's Heritage was selected by the NeSHPO and engaged in a contractual agreement to conduct the Northern Nebraska Sandhills Historic Buildings Survey. The survey consisted of the completed preliminary fieldwork in nine northern Nebraska counties: Grant, Cherry, Hooker, Thomas, Keya Paha, Brown, Rock, Blaine and Loup. Initiated in September, 1988, the survey was completed in May, 1989. With the completion of the nine-county project, the Northern Nebraska Sandhills was the second region of the state to be completed under the NeSHPO's plan for preliminary statewide reconnaissance coverage by 1991-92.

The primary objective of the survey was to provide a preliminary characterization of the extant historic resources in the northern Nebraska Sandhills region. The effort to document properties contributing to the context of Nebraska's historic architecture produces information which serves not only as a resource in preservation management, but also expresses a genuine concern for the history of the Great Plains built environment.

In addition to this, the historic buildings survey of the northern Sandhills region has produced information which serves not only as a tool for local and state preservation planning but also contributes knowledge to the contextual overview of Nebraska's historic architecture. With each historic building survey performed by the NeSHPO, additional information is added to a larger pool of data which allows a greater understanding of the historic resources extant throughout the state.

Another primary objective of the survey was the identification of a definitive group of historic properties potentially eligible for the National

Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Historic Buildings Survey of Keya Paha County has accomplished this goal by identifying a total of 27 historic properties considered potentially eligible for the NRHP. In addition to the completion of these primary goals, several of the survey's secondary goals were also satisfied. These include the identification of specific building types or construction methods which either related or were unique to the historic built environment of Nebraska, and the expansion of knowledge regarding ethnic settlement and building technologies.

Levels of Effort

The Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey uses two different levels of effort when conducting surveys-- the reconnaissance and intensive levels. The northern Nebraska Sand Hills survey was performed as a reconnaissance level survey and later amended to include the intensive survey of four potentially significant sod houses in Thomas County.

Reconnaissance Surveys

The first survey to be conducted in an area is the reconnaissance, a preliminary "broad brush" coverage designed to gather basic information which will guide the planning of future preservation efforts. Photographs are made, each building is mapped, and distinctive features are noted. All materials are carefully cataloged for later reference. Preliminary research collected at this time forms the basis for future architectural and historical research.

Preservation Biases

It is Save America's Heritage belief that people, and the places in which they live, are the raw materials of history. A community, its inhabitants and its development through time are proper subjects for our contemplation, for it is through such studies that we gain a fuller comprehension of the present.

The public mention of a "historic building survey" often fails to produce a collective image or understanding. A strong social awareness towards preservation of our built environment does exist in the rehabilitation of aged urban districts for example, but the notion of recording historic structures as a preservation activity remains a generally obscure concept. Fortunately, this obscurity is due to a lack of awareness rather than a lack of genuine concern. Communicating the importance of this activity as a documentation of our Great Plains history cannot be stressed enough.

Furthermore, it is also the opinion of Save America's Heritage that such surveys are a necessary tool in the recording of Great Plains settlement. The numerical demise of Nebraska's rural architecture is directly linked to the decline of the rural-based population. In the year 1900, 76.3% of Nebraska's population was found in rural towns or on the farms. However, by 1980 the rural population has dropped nearly 40 percentage points to the current figure of 37.1% (see Table 1, p.6).

TABLE 1. LOCATIONAL PERCENTAGE OF NEBRASKA POPULATION,
1900-1980.

Selected Years	Population	Urban Percentage	Rural
1900	1,066,300	23.7	76.3
1910	1,192,214	26.1	73.9
1920	1,296,372	31.3	68.7
1930	1,377,963	35.3	64.7
1940	1,315,834	39.1	60.9
1950	1,325,510	46.9	53.1
1960	1,411,921	54.3	45.7
1970	1,485,333	61.5	38.5
1980	1,569,825	62.9	37.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1980.

The affect on the historic built environment has been devastating. The number of houses now exceeds the demand and the older, perhaps less functional and aesthetic buildings are not re-inhabited. The buildings then deteriorate and are either dismantled or collapse. Consequently, there exists an increasing decline in the "pool" of historic building resources. Compounding the demise of these rural resources is the current decline of the agricultural economy. The prospect of farming as a profitable future for the next generation is now less and less desirable. This, in turn, contributes to the decreasing rural population and re-inhabitation of existing historic buildings.

The enumeration of social changes affecting historic resources can be lengthy and complex. It is clear, however, that the result of these changes coupled with the diminishing effects of time substantiate the need for historic building surveys. It is through such surveys that we not only record the built settlement of Nebraska, but reach a fuller understanding of our present world.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

"Rising from this valley, both to the north and to the south, is the table land of loam soils, sweeping away for miles, a gently undulating plain, with here and there a creek or depression."

(Springview Herald August 23, 1917)

Physical Description

Keya Paha County is located in north-central Nebraska, bordered to the north by South Dakota, to the west by Cherry County, to the south by the Niobrara River, Rock and Brown counties, and to the east by Boyd County. Keya Paha is a small county, forty-eight miles long and only nineteen miles wide at its widest point, it contains 769 square miles of land. Keya Paha neighbors the Sand Hills region of Nebraska, but geographically its territory differs from the rolling Sand Hills to the west and south. Keya Paha County is referred to the "Springview Table" (Hedges and Elliott, 1930, p. 41) in regard to its soil type.

The county has two major rivers traversing its territory and many streams and creeks. The Niobrara forms its southern border and is known as the most beautiful and scenic river in the state. From the river valley, which is very fertile, to the table land the country is quite hilly and covered with grass. This area is suitable for grazing stock animals.

The Keya Paha River is the second major river that traverses Keya Paha County.

"Running length wise of the county and almost in the center, is a depression several miles in width, known as the 'valley'. In

this valley a number of creeks, which empty into the Keya Paha river, have their source. This valley and the valleys of the creeks are the natural hay lands of the county...Rising from this valley, both to the north and to the south, is the table land of loam soils, sweeping away for miles, a gently undulating plain, with here and there a creek or depression. To a large extent this is the farm land of the county."

(Springview Herald August 23, 1917)

The fact that Keya Paha County is situated between these two rivers distinguishes the region geographically from the Sand Hills and crops are grown in moderate quantities in the county.

Original Inhabitants

The first people known to have roamed the area that includes the Sand Hills of Nebraska were those of the Folson Culture. It existed between 15,000 to 10,000 years ago. Sites of the Folson Culture people have been found at the head of the North Loup, Niobrara, Elkhorn, Platte and Republican Rivers in Nebraska. The Niobrara and North Loup Rivers are in the Sand Hills region of the state. The Yuma were the next people known to have inhabited the Sand Hills region. Yuma Culture overlapped the Folson Culture and continued until around 5,000 years ago. The Old Signal Butte Culture came into existence about 5,000 years ago but these people were not known to have inhabited the Sand Hills region. Between 500 A.D. and 1,300 A.D. three Indian Cultures were found in the Sand Hills: the Sterns Creek, the Mira Creek and the Woodland Cultures. From

1,300 A.D. to 1,600 A.D. the Upper Republican Culture is found throughout the state. Sites in the Sand Hills include one on the Loup River and on some of the Cherry County Lakes. From 1,600 A.D. to 1,800 A.D. the Dismal River Culture was found in the Sand Hills, located near the Middle Loup, North Loup and the Dismal Rivers and in general is found in the west and southwest portions of the state.

After 1,800 A.D. the Pawnee and Sioux tribes claimed the land of the Sand Hills as hunting grounds. The two tribes disputed various tracts between themselves. The Pawnee claimed the drainage area of the Loup River as their hunting grounds and camped near the mouth of the river. The Sioux claimed lands east to the forks of the Platte and north to the mouth of the White River in South Dakota as their hunting grounds. Both tribes depended on the bison, which roamed the Sand Hills in vast numbers, as their primary source of food and raw material. Between 1854 and 1876 all the territories that the Sioux and the Pawnee claimed as their hunting ground had been acquired by the United States Government through a series of treaties. The final treaty of 1876 opened up the entire Sand Hills region to settlement.

Military Presence

There were no Military posts established in Keya Paha County, although the area was part of the vast section of Nebraska that was set aside as Indian Territory in 1834. In 1857 Lieut. G. K. Warren, a topographical engineer, explored the area that is now Keya Paha County and arrived near the mouth of the Keya Paha River in October of 1857.

Settlement of Nebraska

The area that was to become the state of Nebraska became a United States possession through the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. The first American exploration of the territory commenced on March 14, 1804 with the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Prior to its opening as a territory for settlement, Nebraska was part of the vast area of land set aside for all Native Americans by an Act of Congress in 1834. Through a series of conflicts and treaties between the United States and the various Native American tribes of the region the United States government was able to acquire this area and open it to general settlement by the pioneers. Nebraska Territory was established in 1854 and 13 years later, in 1867, gained statehood. The settlement of Nebraska generally moved across the state from the southeast to the northwest following the routes of the wagon trails, rivers and, later, the railroads. The development of the railroad was essential to the opening up of Nebraska lands to the tide of settlers.

From its initiation in 1854 until 1862, settlement of Nebraska Territory was generally done under the provisions of the Pre-Emption Act of 1841. This act allowed a settler to file for up to 160 acres for a fixed price, generally \$1.25 to \$2.50 per acre. Under this act, settlement of Nebraska was limited to the southeast portions of the state; Keya Paha County, like other Sand Hills counties, was not affected by this act.

The Homestead Act of 1862, which became effective January 1, 1863, allowed a settler to acquire between 40 to 160 acres without paying the standard fee

per acre to the federal government. This act did provide that the homesteader remain on the land for 5 years and meet a specified minimum level of improvements. It was under this act that the first settlement of the Sand Hills occurred. In Keya Paha County the first homestead was filed in 1878. The homesteader was often faced with the problem of competition for land with the free-range ranchers who had been developing their enterprises without impediment for the past decade. Various areas experienced rather marked disputes between ranchers and homesteaders.

In 1903 Moses P. Kinkaid, then Nebraska Congressman, introduced an act to Congress that would allow the homesteader to file for up to 640 acres of land as opposed to the usual 160 acres. This act specifically applied to the Sand Hills region of Nebraska; also, it recognized that the Sand Hills region did not lend itself to 160 acre farms or to the style of farming developed in other areas of Nebraska. The arid Sand Hills required that a greater land area be utilized to provide the means for successful agricultural and/or ranching endeavors. The act proved to be a boon to the Sand Hills region bringing in its largest group of settlers to date. Various acts followed the Kinkaid Act which, combined with tolerable weather and good luck, brought about the permanent settlement and development of the Sand Hills Region and Keya Paha County.

The Kinkaid Act was one of the most important elements in the settlement of the Sand Hills region. While Keya Paha County does not strictly fit the definition of the Sand Hills region it was never the less included in the area designated as applicable for the Kinkaid Act. From 1904 to 1920, the Kinkaid Act resulted in the peak population of the Sand Hills region.

Due to the importance of the Homestead and Kinkaid Acts to the northern Sand Hills region, Save America's Heritage has included a more detailed analysis of their impact in the Important Themes section found in subsequent articles of this report.

The period between 1900 and 1930 was prosperous for Keya Paha County and the state in general. Improvements were made in transportation, education, agriculture and government. Populations across the state reached peaks throughout this period with the exception of eastern counties and those with major communities.

The Great Depression Era of the 1930's, was one of climatic and economic hardships in Keya Paha County and throughout the state and nation. Unlike many counties Keya Paha did not lose a great deal of its population during this period. Keya Paha County's diversified agricultural base was in part responsible for this as well as the regions abundance of natural resources.

County History

Keya Paha County was established by a vote on November 4, 1884 at which time it was separated from Brown County. Previous to being included in the territory of Brown County, the Keya Paha region was a section of Holt County. The county was being settled as early as 1878 in the fertile valley regions. Early settlers constructed log cabins from the ample supply of timber surrounding the region's rivers and streams. Cattlemen from Texas, who brought their herds into Nebraska for the winter, made up a portion of the original

settlers. The sprawling free-range ranch did not remain a mainstay of Keya Paha County and by the early 1880's homesteaders were entering the county.

With no railroad in the county, Keya Paha remains an inland county. The county seat, Springview, is located in the south-central section of the county. The town was created in 1885 as the seat of Keya Paha County. A post office was established at Springview on July 21, 1887 and is currently one of two existing post offices in the county. Springview, never a sizable town, reached its peak population of 307 residents in 1940. In 1911 a two-story High School, the only one in the county, was built and the Keya Paha County court house and jail was built in 1915. At one time there were over 100 windmills in Springview but none remain today. The only bank in the county is currently located in Springview and a paper is published weekly. Springview is the largest town in Keya Paha County and includes the standard businesses, churches, schools and services.

Burton is located in the east-central section of Keya Paha County. The post office was established there on June 5, 1884 and discontinued in 1973. In March of 1884 Burton lost the county seat election to Springview. In 1914 the town was incorporated. In 1940 the community had a population under 100 and consisted of a post office, grocery store, gas station, two churches and a few private dwellings.

Norden, located in the west-central section of Keya Paha County, was platted in 1885. A post office was established there on August 5, 1884 and was closed in 1974. Norden's population peaks were in 1930 and 1940 with 179 residents listed in both of those years. The Keya Paha County Fair Grounds are still located at Norden which guarantees a small population in the area.

Other communities in Keya Paha County include Jamison, Meadville and the former towns of Brocksburg and Carns. Carns was located on the banks of the Niobrara River in Township 32 north, Range 19 west. A ferry was operated at Carns before bridges were built over the river. There was a post office and school at Carns for a short time in the 1880's and 1890's. The post office in Jamison was established June 9, 1903 and discontinued in 1973. The peak population of Jamison occurred in 1950 with 200 residents. Meadville's post office was established October 29, 1883 in the log home of Merrit Mead (KP05-002) and discontinued in 1960. The peak population of Meadville in 1950 was 29.

With its many creeks and streams and surrounding rivers, Keya Paha County has built a multitude of bridges near many of its communities. There was a toll bridge operated over the Niobrara River until 1884 by a Mr. William Morris.

Ethnic Groups and Population Trends

The first year that federal census reports are available for Keya Paha County is 1890 and that is also the year of the county's peak population. In that year there were 3,920 persons listed on the census with 370 of those being of foreign birth. There were 107 Germans, 100 people from the British Isles, 47 Scandinavians and 71 English Canadians. From 1890 until 1980 the population of Keya Paha County has steadily declined with only 1,301 residents listed in 1980.

The largest group of foreign-born persons in Keya Paha County came from

Germany and Austria with ninety six persons in 1900, ninety three persons in 1910, seventy five persons in 1920, fifty one persons in 1930, twenty seven persons in 1940 and eleven persons in 1950. Canadians (both English and French) comprised the second largest group of foreign-born persons in the county with a total of 143 person listed from 1890 to 1900. There were seventy one listed in 1890, thirty eight in 1900, twenty five in 1910, seventeen in 1920 and seven, four and two, respectively for 1930, 1940 and 1950. From 1900 to 1950 there were 135 people listed as having been born in the British Isles with fifty people in 1900, forty six in 1910, twenty seven in 1920, six in 1930 and three each in 1940 and 1950. There were 93 people of Eastern European birth (Czechs, Bohemians, Yugoslavians and Russians) listed between 1890 and 1950.

The steady downward trend of population in Keya Paha County is markedly different from the trends for the Sand Hills region and for the state as a whole. Population peaks for eighty-percent of the state were reached in the 1930's and 1940's. The Kinkaid Act had very little effect on the population of Keya Paha County and on its settlement.

Agriculture and Ranching

Keya Paha County is in the Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production region of the state (NeSHPO Historic Context 08.03). This area was referred to as the Central Hay and Livestock Area by Hedges and Elliott (1930, p. 26) where they described the region as

"...distinguished by the dominance of hay and pasture in the cropping system. Hay occupies nearly 14 percent of the farm land

and pasture slightly more than 50 percent. Hay is a cash crop in some sections of the northern part. Corn is the principal grain crop but small acreages of oats and rye ... are also grown. The beef cattle enterprise is the most important in the livestock system, with hogs, dairy cattle, and poultry added sources of income."

This area is diversified in its agricultural productions. With its variety of land and soil types Keya Paha County is not strictly, even if predominantly, dependent on the production of cattle.

Final Comments

Keya Paha County depends on a diversified agricultural economy for its maintenance. The farms and ranches in the county tend to be smaller than those in other regions of the state and are characterized by various crop and livestock enterprises. The natural beauty of land of Keya Paha County is a source of special satisfaction to its residents. Though the population of the county has become rather small, the social fabric of the region is still intact.

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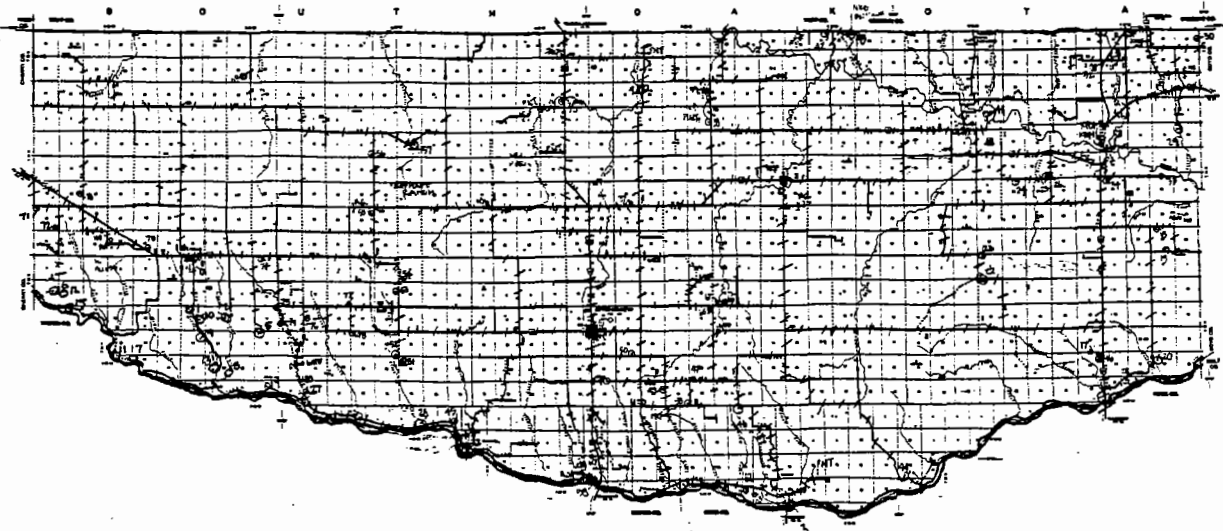
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GENERAL SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

Introduction



The objectives associated with the Keya Paha County Historic Buildings Survey were to provide a preliminary characterization of the historic resources extant within the county and to produce information which will serve as a reference in the preservation management of these resources. A post-survey evaluation of these goals reveals that the Keya Paha County Historic Buildings Survey has successfully satisfied these preliminary objectives. The satisfaction of these goals can be expressed in two quantifiable terms: numerical and geographic. Each street of the seven Keya Paha County communities and nearly every rural road was surveyed using reconnaissance survey methods. The numbers produced by the survey are indicative of the comprehensive nature with which the survey was performed. A total of 439 contributing buildings, structures, objects and sites were documented on 166 individual properties.

The survey canvassed approximately 113,920 acres (178 square miles) and identified 27 properties potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Numerical Summary of Keya Paha County Reconnaissance Survey

KEYA PAHA COUNTY	TOTAL PROPERTIES	CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS	CONTRIBUTING SITES	CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES	CONTRIBUTING OBJECTS
KP00: Rural	80 (15)	249 (22)	2	7	35
KP01: Brocksburg	2	10	0	0	1
KP02: Burton	7	11	0	0	0
KP04: Jamison	4	7	0	0	0
KP05: Meadville	3	3	0	0	0
KP06: Mills	6	8	0	0	0
KP07: Johnstown	4	4	0	0	0
KP09: Springview	60 (1)	91 (1)	0	0	11
TOTALS	166 (16)	383 (23)	2	7	47

Approximated Area of Survey Coverage: 178 square miles (113,920 acres)

Numbers in parenthesis indicate previously surveyed properties

The Historic Buildings Survey of Keya Paha County has produced a diverse collection of historic resources. This diversity is expressed in the broad range of Historic Contexts and Associated Property Types (NeSHPO Historic Contexts in Nebraska: 1989) represented in the database of the surveyed properties. The list of Historic Contexts recorded by the reconnaissance level survey consists of;

Religion

- 02.05. Congregationalism
- 02.06. Methodism
- 02.99. Other Protestant Faiths

Government

- 04.02. Local Government
- 04.03. County Government
- 04.06. Federal Government

Education

- 06.01.01. Rural Education
- 06.01.02. Elementary Education
- 06.01.04. High Schools and Secondary Education

Agriculture

- 08.03. Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production

Commerce

- 12.02.03. Retail Commerce in the Lower Niobrara Region

Transportation

- 13.02. Roads

Services

- 15.05.03. The Age of Main Street Banking: The Dual System in Nebraska (1889-1920).

Settlement

- 16.01. Land Ownership

Preliminary Inventory of the Keya Paha County Historic Buildings Survey

A Topical Discussion and Preliminary Inventory of Keya Paha County Historic Properties

The following discussion consists of a topical summary and Preliminary Inventory of the historic properties documented during the Keya Paha County Historic Buildings Survey. This discussion is arranged according to the Topical Listing of Historic Contexts authored by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO, 1989). It includes discussion only of those properties potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or those that contribute to the historic character of Keya Paha County. Included at the end of each summary is an illustrated inventory of properties which appear potentially eligible for National Register listing in reference to the Historic Context being discussed. Then, located at the end of the Preliminary Inventory, is a listing of properties which also contribute to the historic character of Keya Paha County but are of second priority with respect to National Register listing. These properties have been labeled "Second Priority Properties" and are included in the Inventory for purposes of defining those buildings that may lack the significance or integrity for NRHP listing but which help define the character of the historic built environment of Keya Paha County.

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Government

The contextual topic of Government systems encompasses the art or science of established government as well as competition between interest groups for leadership of local, state, or national government. Historic buildings which may relate to this topic include most government-related structures necessary to the political operation of communities.

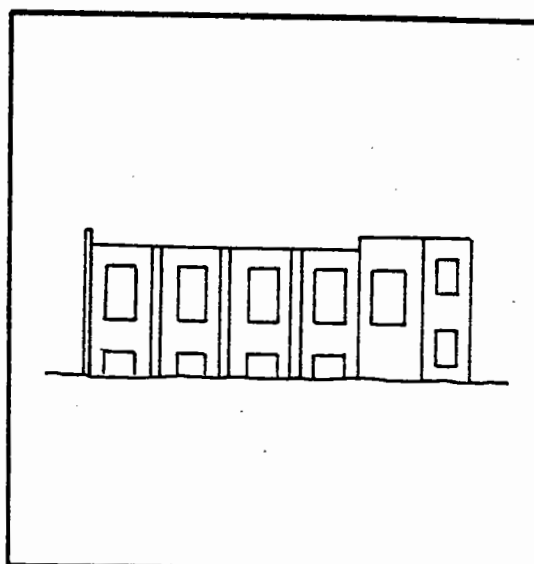
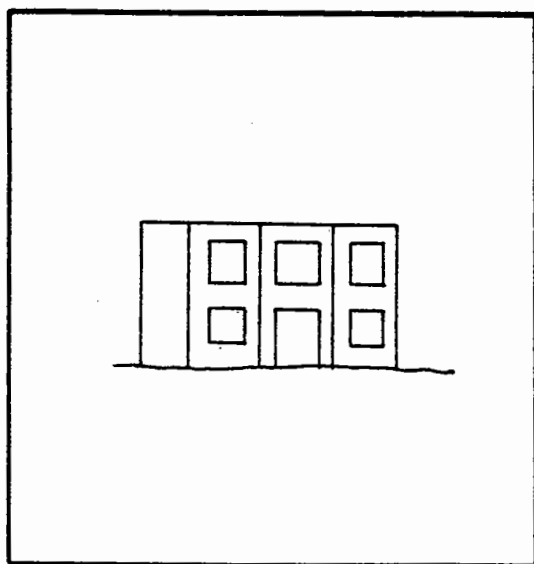
In consideration of the fact that Keya Paha County contains a relatively low population base, it is somewhat understandable that only five properties with association to Government were recorded by the survey. Of these five, the Keya Paha County Courthouse (KP09-002) and the Springview Auditorium (KP09-003) have been judged potentially significant and are included in the Preliminary Inventory which follows.

The Keya Paha County Courthouse was built in 1914 by contractor R.W. McHale from the design of Architect D.E. Shipley. The building consists of a two-story rectangular shaped masonry core placed on a raised cement block basement. A recessed central-entry located on the south facade has survived the alterations which have otherwise compromised the integrity of the remaining fenestration. Other features which contribute to the historic character of the courthouse grounds include the Keya Paha County High School (KP09-001, NRHP 198612), a granite war memorial and axial landscape plantings.

The Springview Auditorium (KP09-003) is the second property included in the Government inventory and consists of a raised two-story masonry

building core with an engaged entry wing. The auditorium is located adjacent to the courthouse grounds and is important for its role in the civic development of Springview. Another significant aspect of the auditorium is its relationship to the Works Progress Administration (WPA) building program. The auditorium was constructed in 1936 by the WPA and has retained a substantial degree of historic integrity. The Springview Auditorium has also been cross-referenced to the Historic Context of Diversion (07).

Both the courthouse and the auditorium are examples of local government buildings important for their contributions to established culture. The following Preliminary Inventory further illustrates these properties.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP09-003

DATE: 1936

COMMON NAME: Springview Auditorium

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Local Government: (04.02), (07)

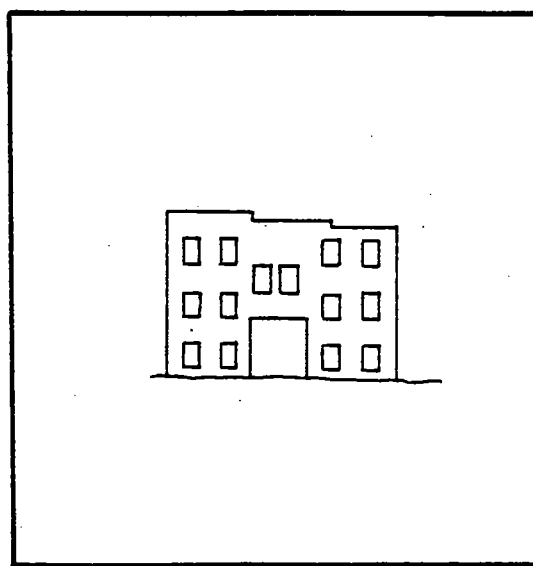
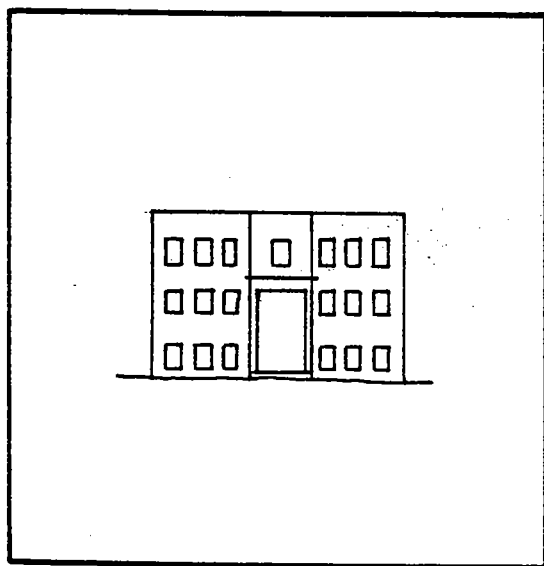
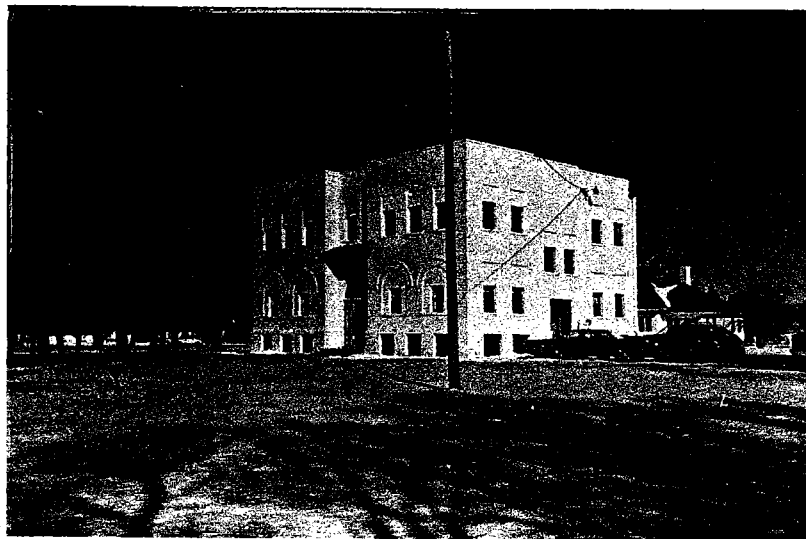
PROPERTY TYPE: Auditorium (07.1.2)

LOCATION: SEC "L" St. & 12th St., Springview.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 1 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 0

Included in the Preliminary Inventory for associations with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) building program and the Historic Context of Local Government.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP09-002

DATE: 1914

RESOURCE NAME: Keya Paha County Courthouse

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Government: (04.03)

PROPERTY TYPE: Courthouse (04.1.7)

LOCATION: NS "L" St. between 12th & 13th, Springview.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 1 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 2

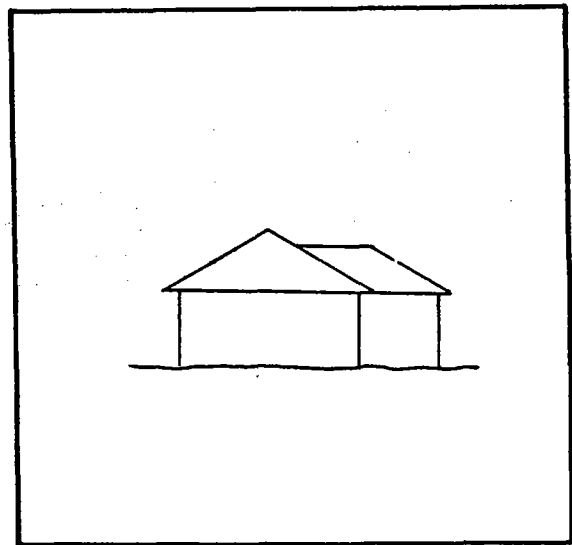
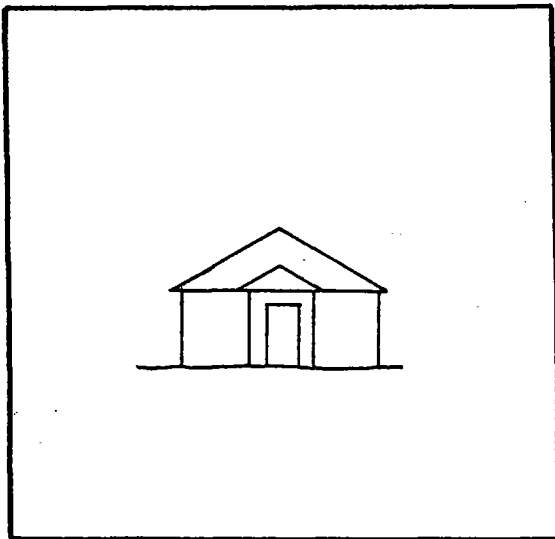
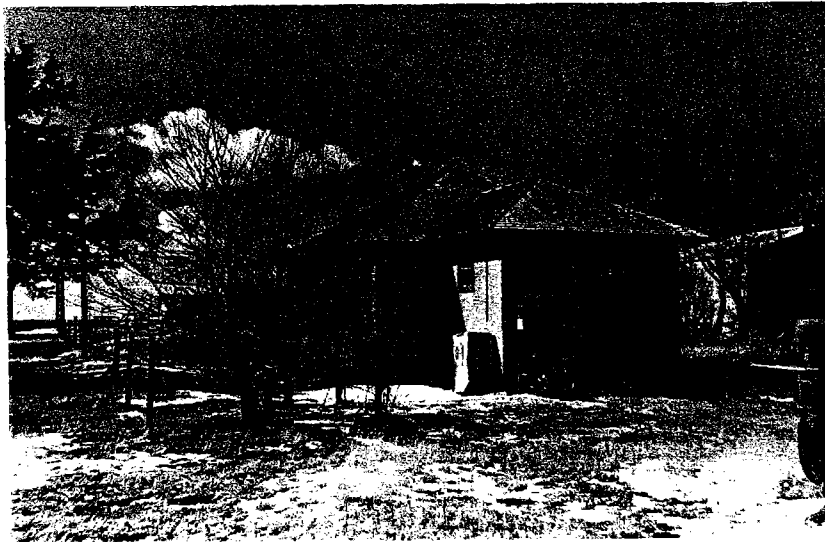
Two-story masonry courthouse included in the Preliminary Inventory for its importance as the home of local county-based government.

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Education (06)

The Contextual Topic of Education encompasses any act or process which imparts or aids in the acquisition of knowledge. This title is quite self-explanatory with primary emphasis focused upon the components of schooling and enrichment. Historic buildings which fit this context are, among other, libraries, museums, and various types or levels of schools.

The reconnaissance survey of Keya Paha County recorded a relatively high number of properties relating to the context of Education. Fifteen individual schools were recorded by the survey with each of these fitting the sub-context of Schooling (06.01). Of these fifteen school properties, twelve contained buildings which have either been abandoned or relocated. The majority of the abandoned buildings are the remains of the pre-consolidation rural school system of Keya Paha County. This observation testifies to the transient nature of rural educational type facilities. Rural schools tend to be small scale and usually of frame construction. As the population base shifts certain schools are no longer necessary and are either abandoned or reused as a ranch outbuilding.

Eight schools have been selected for the Preliminary Inventory and are considered potentially eligible to the National Register. While no individual property is of unquestionable significance, the group of rural and town based schools are collectively viewed as important resources associated with the context of Education.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP09-055

DATE: c.1914

RESOURCE NAME: District #55 School (Abandoned)

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Education: (06.01)

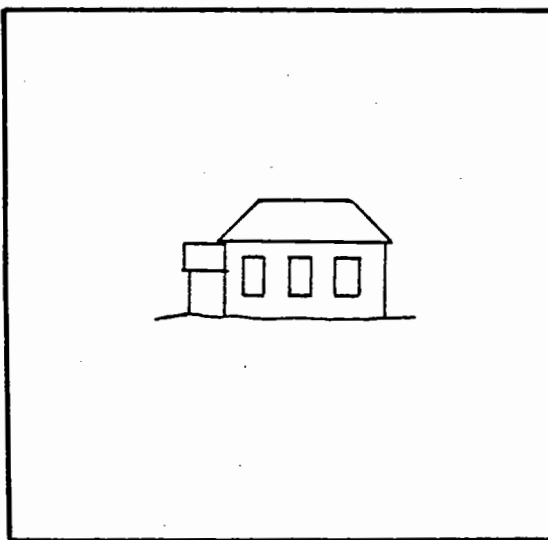
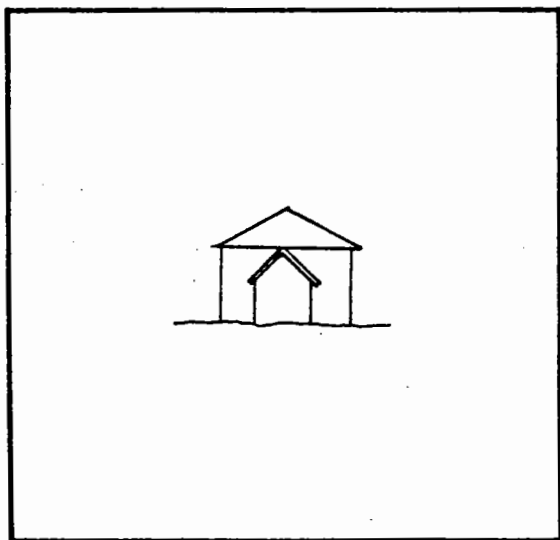
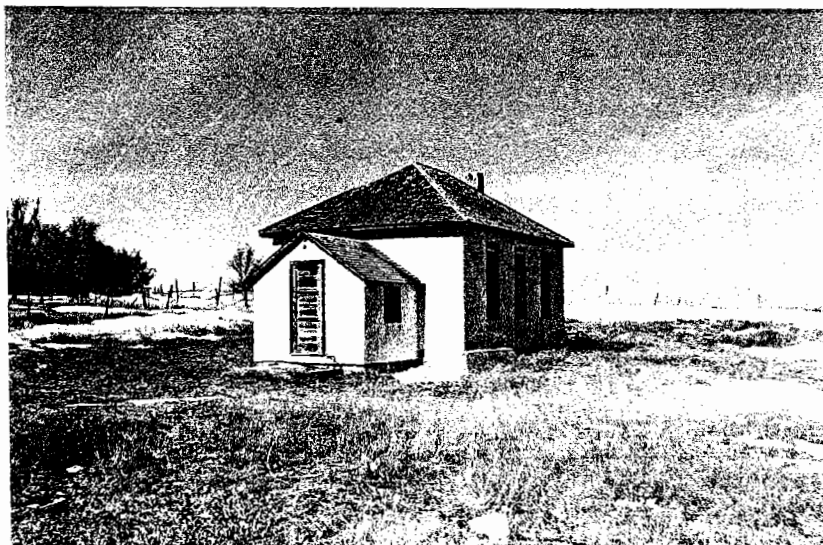
PROPERTY TYPE: Public School (06.3)

LOCATION: WS 9th St. between J St. & K St., Springview

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 1 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 0

One-story stucco school building included in the Preliminary Inventory as a well-preserved example of public education facilities of the early twentieth-century in Keya Paha County.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP00-026

DATE: c.1905

COMMON NAME: School (Abandoned)

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Education: (06.01.01)

PROPERTY TYPE: Rural School (06.3.1)

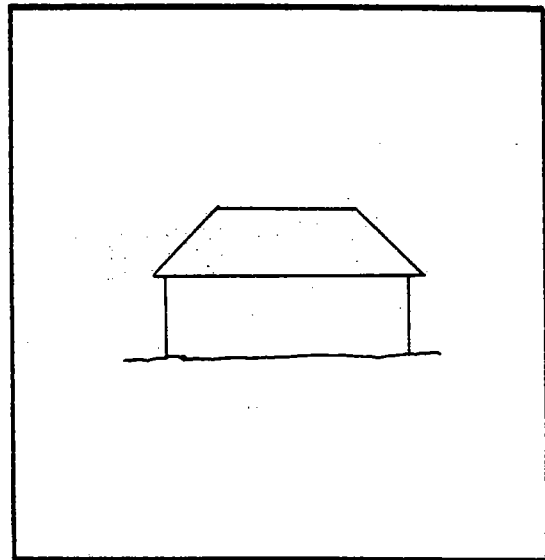
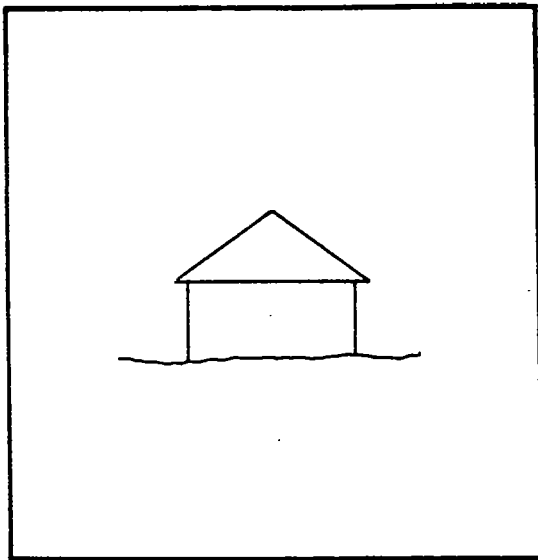
LOCATION: SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec.13, T. 34 N., R.18 W., Mills.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 1 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0

OBJECTS: 0

One-story stucco hall-type schoolhouse important for its contribution to rural education in northeast Keya Paha County during the early twentieth-century.



NeHBS NUMBER: KPO1-002

DATE: c.1912

RESOURCE NAME: Brocksburg School

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Rural Education: (06.01.01)

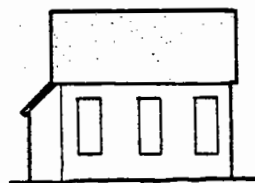
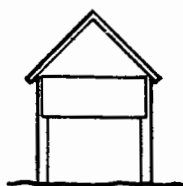
PROPERTY TYPE: Rural Hall Type School (06.3.1:1)

LOCATION: See Plat Map, Brocksburg

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 3 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 0

Located in the non-extant community of Brocksburg, the former Brocksburg School is important for its contribution to the educational system established during the permanent settlement period of northeast Keya Paha County.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP00-036

DATE: c.1910

COMMON NAME: Former School

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Education: (06.01.01)

PROPERTY TYPE: Rural Hall Type School (06.3.1:1)

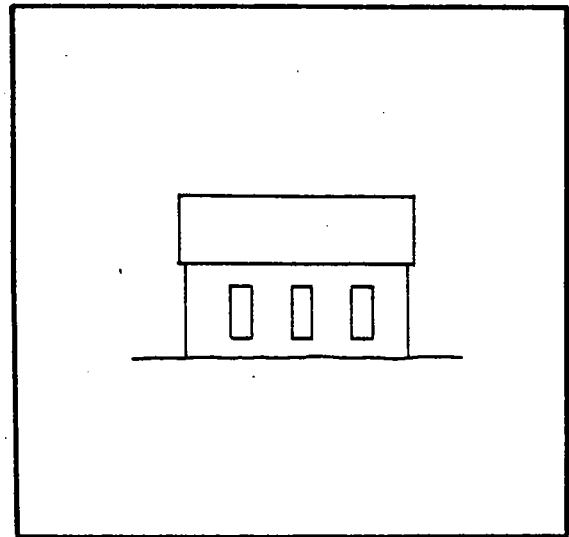
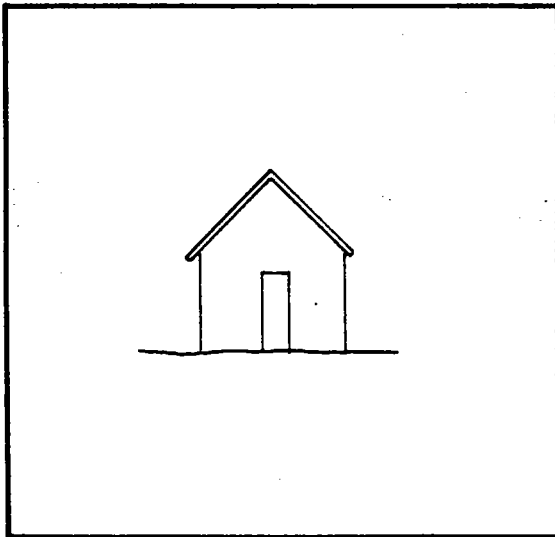
LOCATION: SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 22, T.35 N., R.21 W., Meadville NE.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 2 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0

OBJECTS: 0

This small stucco hall-type school building is included in the Preliminary Inventory for its association with rural education in north-central Keya Paha County.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP00-068

DATE: c.1890, 1907

COMMON NAMES: Schools

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Education: (06.01.01)

PROPERTY TYPE: Rural Hall Type Schools (06.3.1:1)

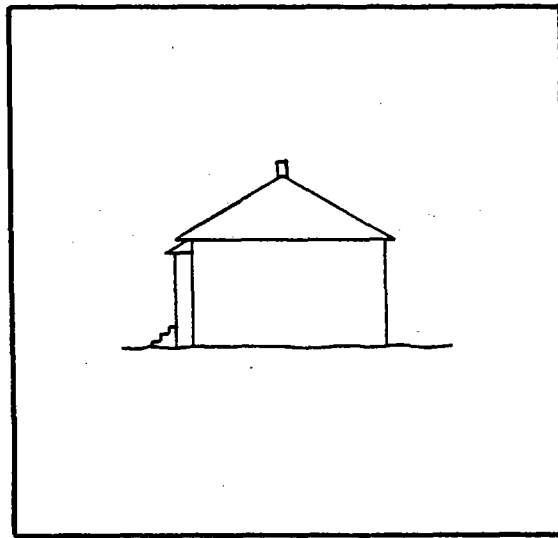
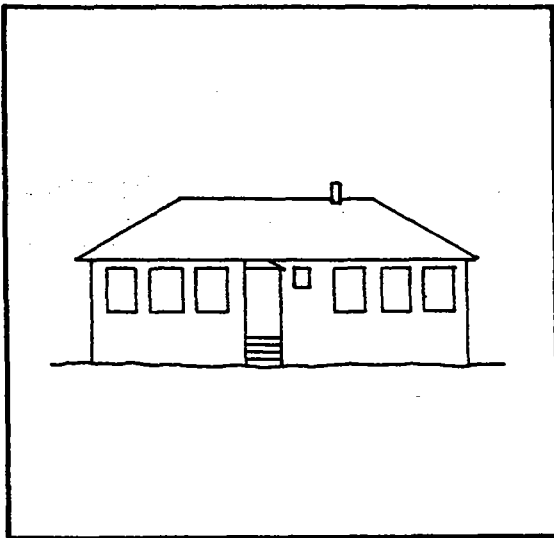
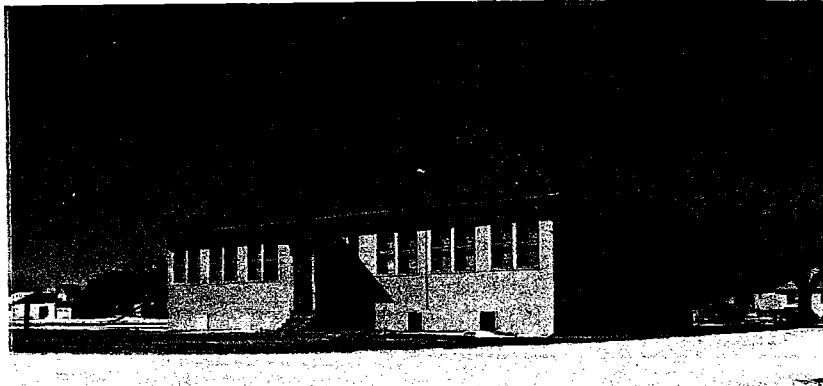
LOCATION: SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 19, T.34 N., R. 21 W., Meadville NE.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 2 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0

OBJECTS: 0

Two former hall-type school buildings judged potentially significant for their association with the establishment and growth of the rural educational system in central Keya Paha County.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP09-023

DATE: c.1920

RESOURCE NAME: Springview Elementary School

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Education: (06.01)

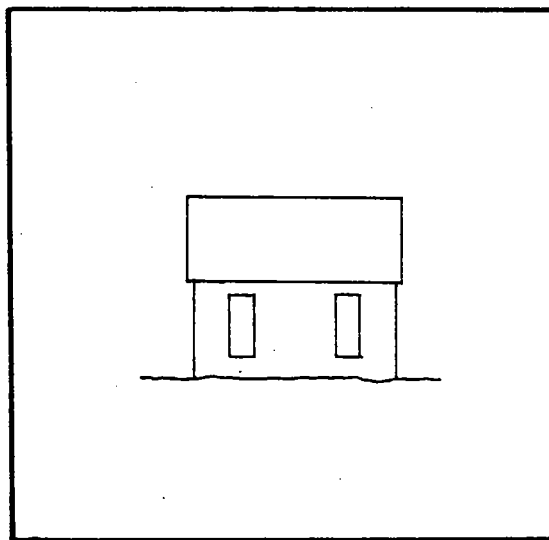
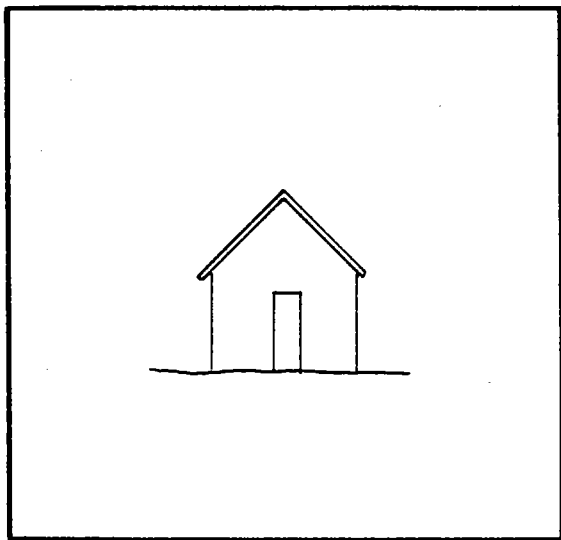
PROPERTY TYPE: Grade School (06.3.2)

LOCATION: SEC 13th & "K" St., Springview.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 1 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 0

The Springview Elementary School is included in the Preliminary Inventory as a representative example of the advancement in public educational facilities during the period of Spurious Economic Growth in Nebraska (1920-1929).



NeHBS NUMBER: KP00-016

DATE: c.1900

RESOURCE NAME: Dist. No. 69 School,(Abandoned).

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Education: (06.01.01)

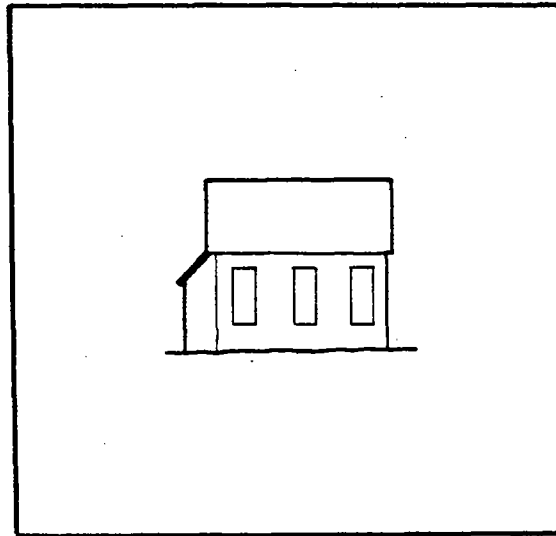
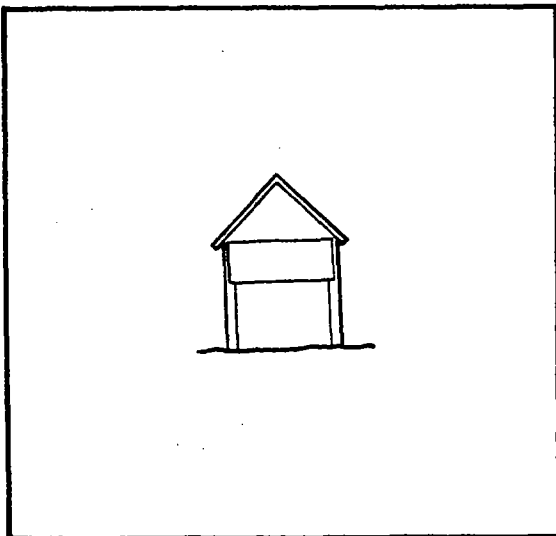
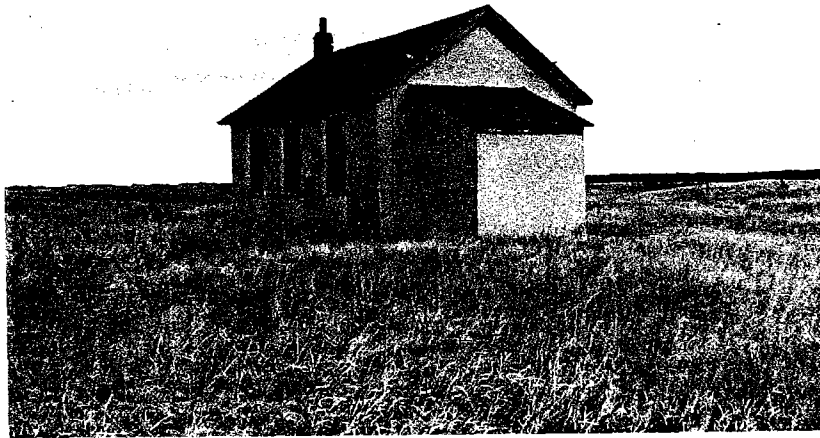
PROPERTY TYPE: Rural Hall Type School (06.3.1:1)

LOCATION: SE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 29, T.33 N., R.17 W., Mariaville.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 1 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 0

One-story frame school building important as a representative example of the rural educational facilities established by early twentieth-century settlers in the Niobrara River Valley of eastern Keya Paha County.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP00-076

DATE: c.1910

RESOURCE NAME: Turkey Creek School (Abandoned)

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Education: (06.01.01)

PROPERTY TYPE: Rural Hall Type School (06.3.1:1)

LOCATION: NW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 29, T.33 N., R.17 W., Mariaville.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 1 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 0

Former one-story stucco school building included in the Preliminary Inventory for its association with rural education in the Niobrara River Valley of western Keya Paha County.

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture (08)

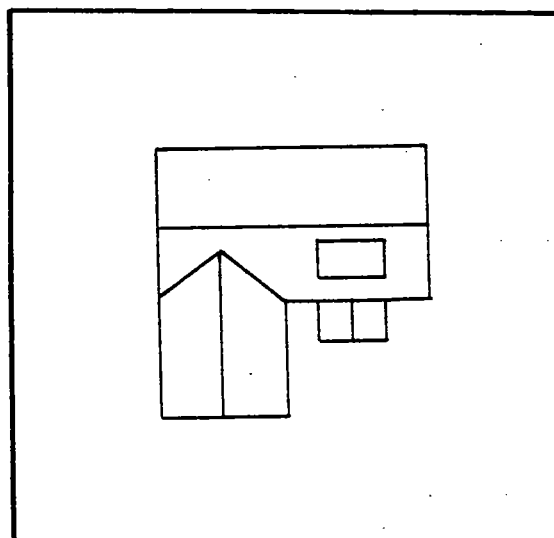
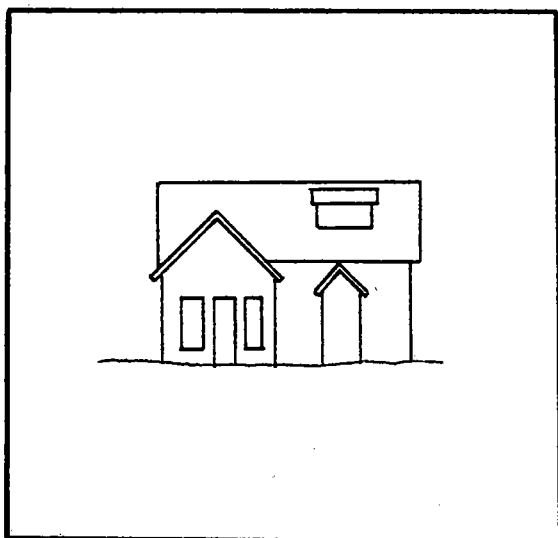
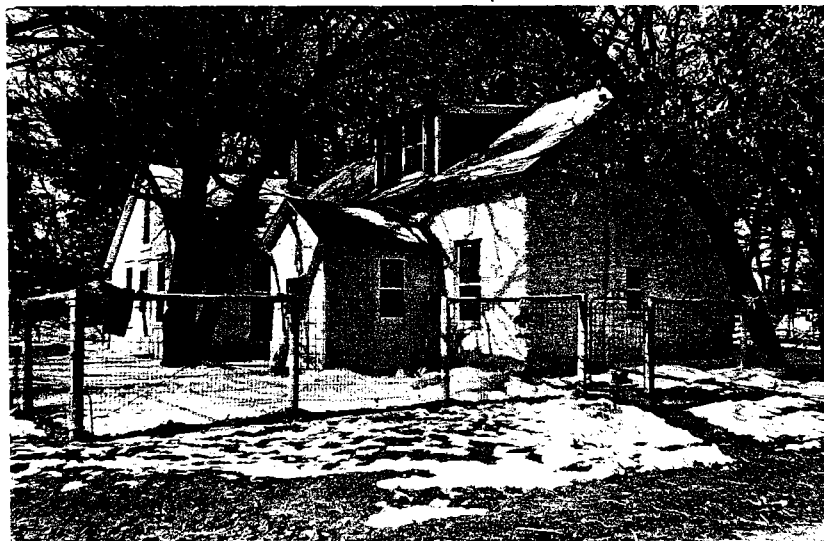
As defined by the NeSHPO, the context of Agriculture is the art and science of food production, including crops and livestock; and in varying degrees the preparation of these products as by marketing. Considerations include: agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry marketing; crops including corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye, alfalfa, hay and other forage crops, sugar beets, soybeans and fruits.

The Historic Context relating to the theme of Agriculture will be of great variety and importance to Nebraska. As a predominantly agrarian-based society, the economic well-being of the state is, in part, dependent upon the production of crops and livestock. Like other Nebraska counties, the settlement of Keya Paha County was correspondent to the agricultural success of the early permanent settlers. Consequently, the documentation of historic agricultural properties in Keya Paha County was an important and numerically significant task. Bearing this out is the fact that a total of 49 individual farm sites were documented by the Historic Buildings survey of Keya Paha County. These 49 properties accounted for 202 contributing buildings, 7 contributing structures, and 33 contributing objects.

Keya Paha County lies in the north-central portion of Nebraska in the type-of-farming region designated the Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production area (08.03). This zone is characterized by topographic and floral diversities and is one of the most scenic areas in the state. Valleys, plains, dissected plains, bluffs and escarpments, and small sections

of sand hills are included in the zone. Mixed prairie grasses characterize the uplands; while in the valleys, the eastern deciduous forests meet and mix with the Rocky Mountain forests from the West (Contexts: Topical Listing, NeSHPO 1989).

The Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production farming system is considered one of the more important Historic Contexts in Keya Paha County. Because of this, Save America's Heritage has included a more detailed discussion of this subject in the Important Themes section found on page 58.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP00-029

DATE: c.1912

COMMON NAME: Ranch

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture: (08.03)

PROPERTY TYPE: Ranch (08.1)

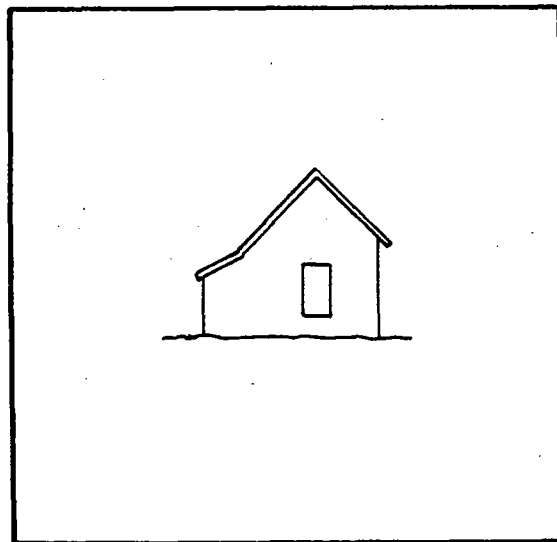
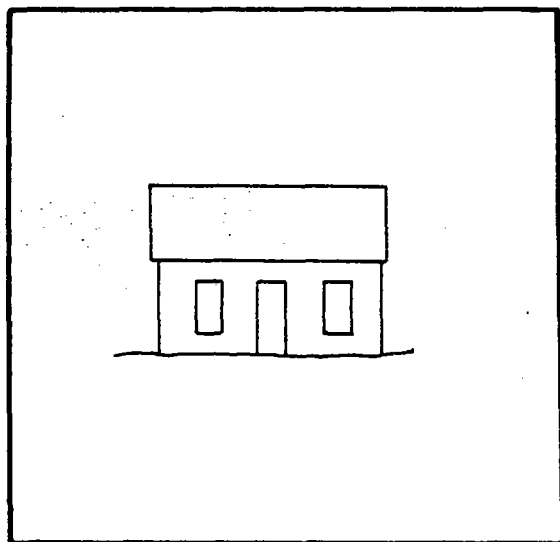
LOCATION: SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 12, T.34 N., R.17 W., Jamison.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 6 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0

OBJECTS: 0

Considered potentially eligible for National Register listing based on the presence of the native rock house and for association with the Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production Historic Context.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP00-047

DATE: c.1900

COMMON NAME: Farmstead (Abandoned)

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture: (08.03)

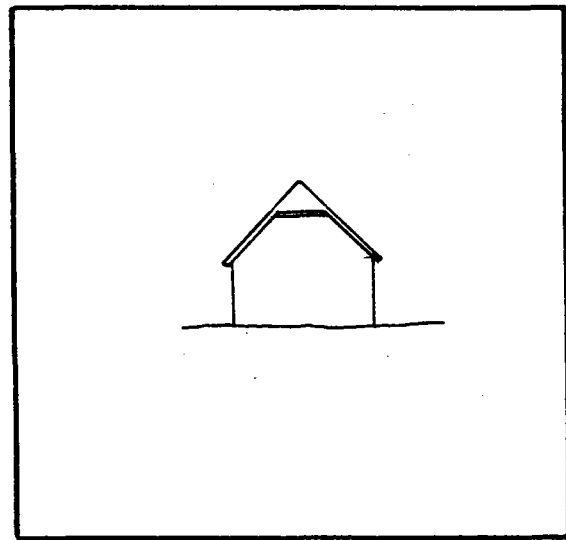
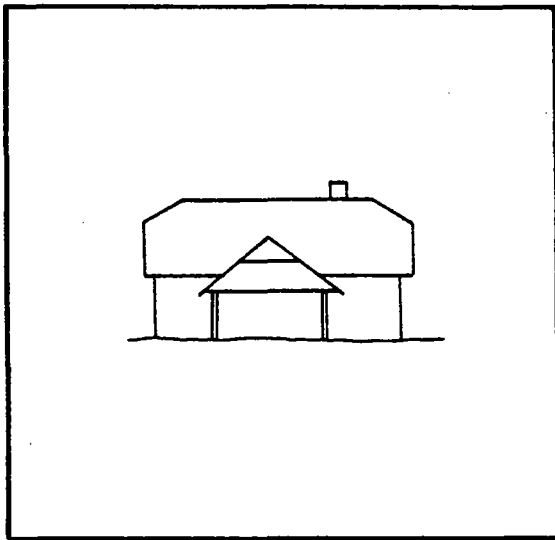
PROPERTY TYPE: Ranch (08.1)

LOCATION: SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 27, T.33 N., R.20 W., Springview.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 3 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 0

Abandoned small-scale farmstead considered potentially significant as an early example of wild hay, livestock and cash grain farming in central Keya Paha County.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP00-048

DATE: c.1910

COMMON NAME: House (Abandoned)

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture: (08.03), Settlement (16.01)

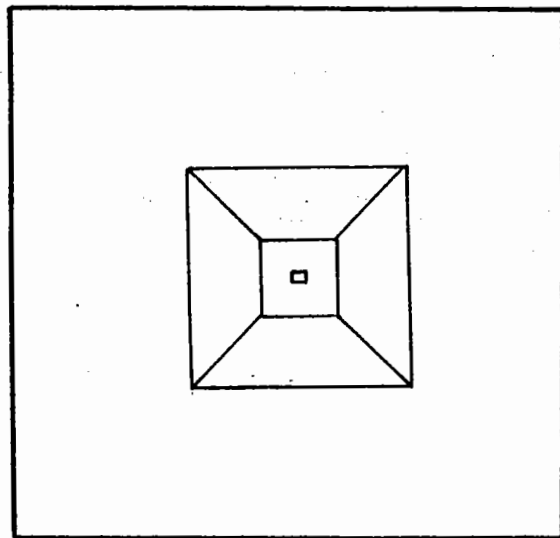
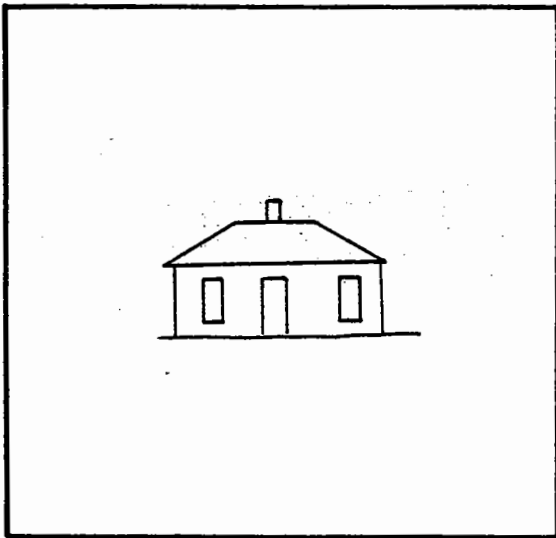
PROPERTY TYPE: Ranch (08.1)

LOCATION: SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 33, T.33 N., R.20 W., Springview.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 1 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 0

One-story cement block house with clipped-gable roof judged potentially significant for relationship with the Historic Contexts of Settlement and Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production farming.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP00-064

DATE: c.1905

COMMON NAME: Farmstead (Abandoned)

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture: (08.03), Settlement: (16.01)

PROPERTY TYPE: Ranch (08.1)

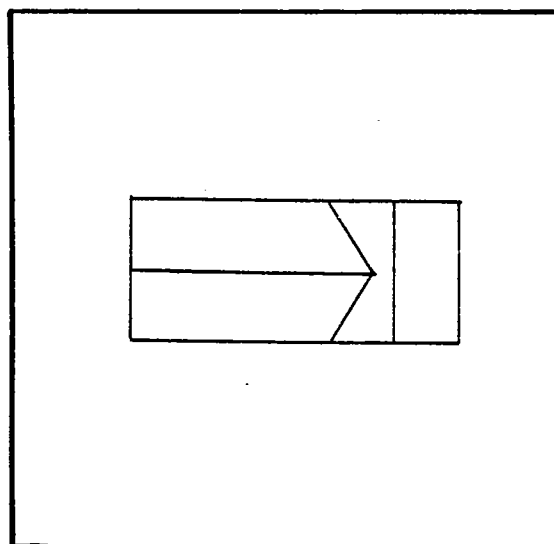
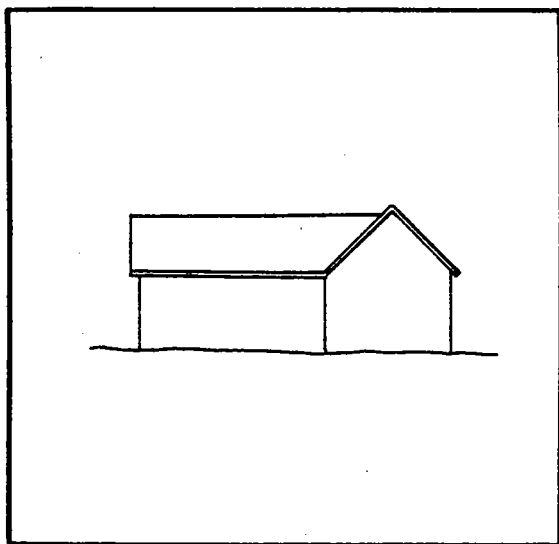
LOCATION: SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 1, T.32 N., R.20 W., Springview SE.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 3 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0

OBJECTS: 0

Early twentieth-century rural property included in the Preliminary Inventory for associations with Niobrara River Valley settlement and Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production agriculture.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP00-071

DATE: c.1885 & c.1910

COMMON NAME: Farmstead

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture: (08.03), Settlement: (16.01)

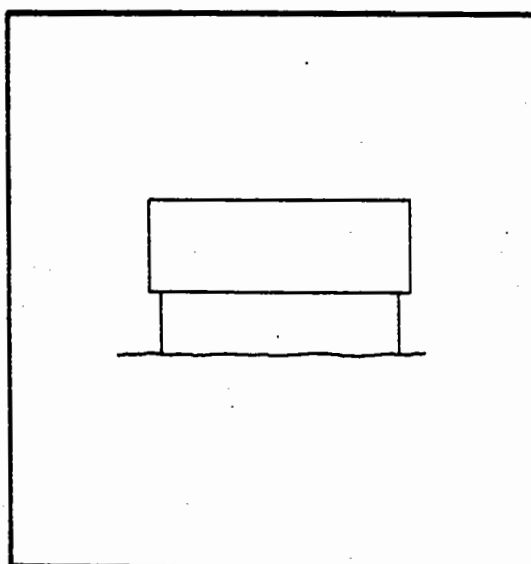
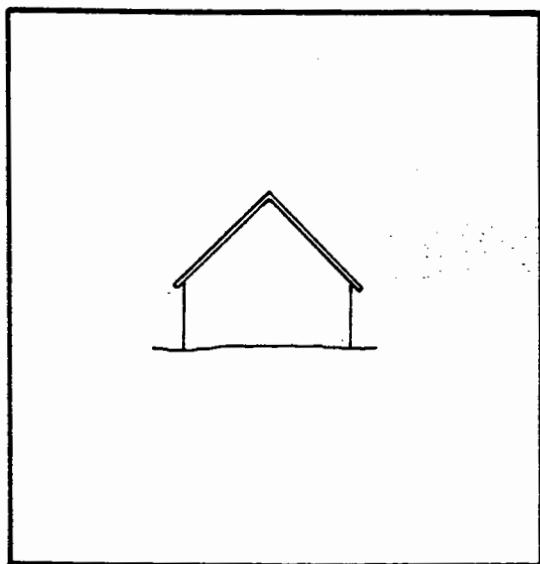
PROPERTY TYPE: Ranch (08.1)

LOCATION: NW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 30, T.34 N., R.24 W., Norden NW.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 5 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 0

This property was chosen primarily for the presence of the circa 1885 log house and is cross-listed as potentially significant to the Historic Contexts of Settlement and Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain farming.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP00-073

DATE: c.1890

COMMON NAME: Ranch

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture: (08.03)

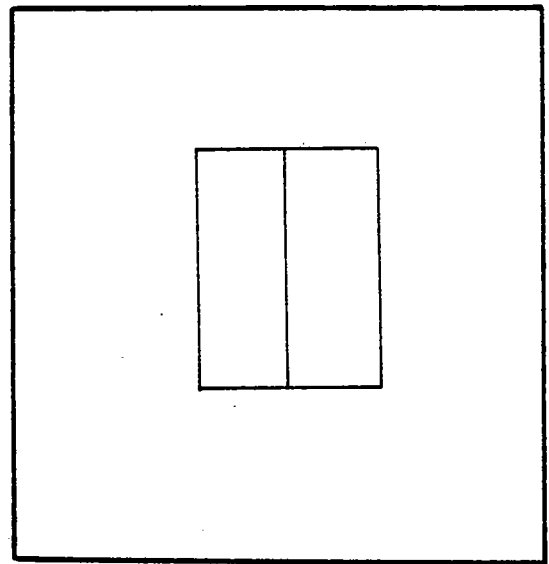
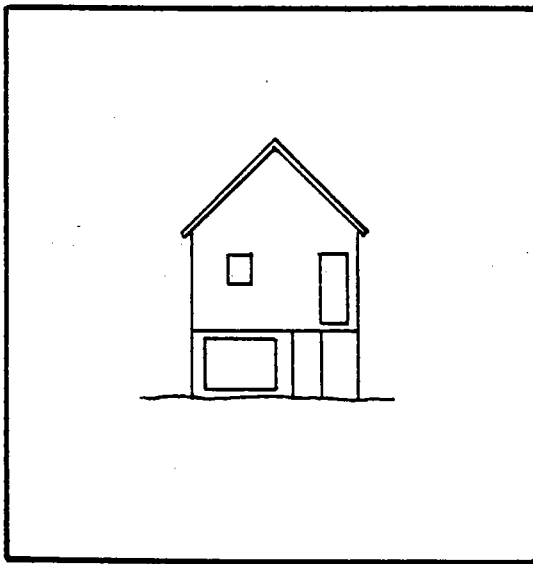
PROPERTY TYPE: Ranch (08.1)

LOCATION: NE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 35, T.34 N., R.24 W., Norden.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 6 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 0

Potentially significant for association with Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production agriculture with particular emphasis placed on the late nineteenth-century rock and grout outbuilding.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP00-080

DATE: c.1885

COMMON NAME: Ranch

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture: (08.03), Settlement: (16.01)

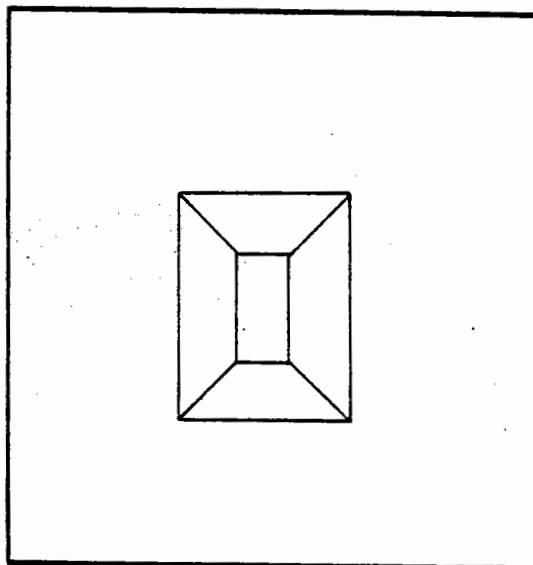
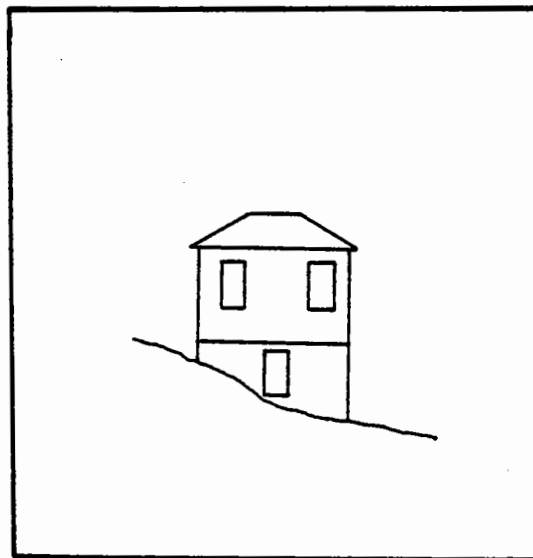
PROPERTY TYPE: Ranch (08.1)

LOCATION: NE 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 35, T.33 N., R.23 W., Huddle Table.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 3 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 0

Abandoned ranch buildings considered potentially significant for their representation of late nineteenth-century settlement in the Niobrara River Valley and for possible association with Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain farming.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP00-027

DATE: c.1880

COMMON NAME: Homestead (Abandoned)

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Agriculture (08.03), Settlement (16.01)

PROPERTY TYPE: Ranch (08.1)

LOCATION: SE 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 36, T.33 N., R.23.W., Huddle Table.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 6 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0

OBJECTS: 2

Abandoned ranch buildings judged significant for their representation of late nineteenth-century settlement in the Niobrara River Valley and for potential association with Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production agriculture.

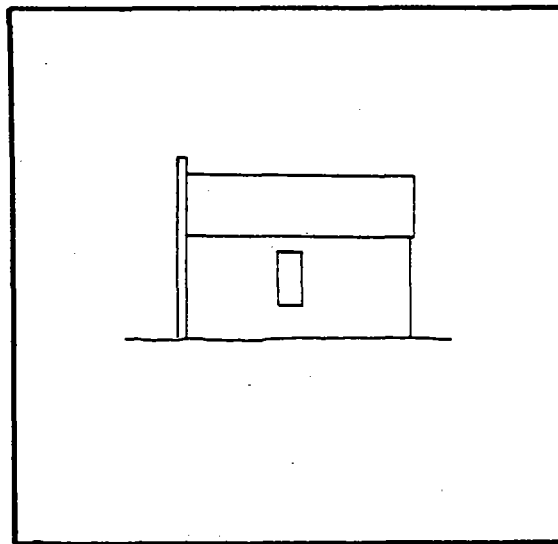
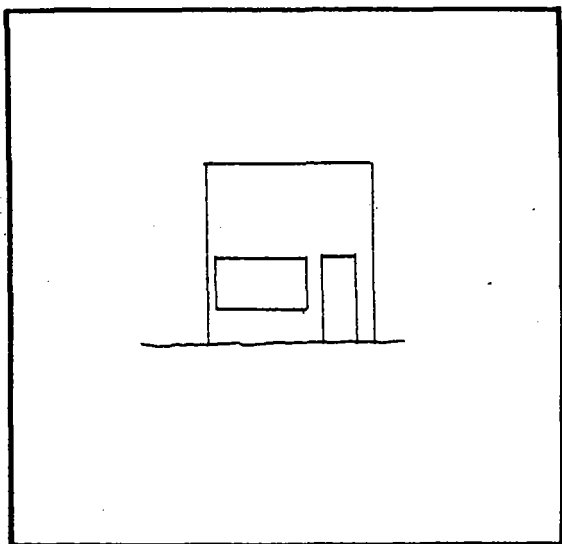
HISTORIC CONTEXT: Commerce (12)

The context of Commerce is defined as the buying and selling of commodities, involving transportation from place to place. Considerations include wholesaling and retailing; gift exchange; trade and barter; monetary economy including finance, business organization, and mercantile business. Commerce encompasses a diverse range of businesses including such institutions as supermarkets, hotels, specialty stores, and department stores.

The reconnaissance survey of Keya Paha County recorded a total of eleven properties associated with the context of Commerce. The majority of these properties were located in the central business districts of the Keya Paha County communities. These "Main Street" buildings appear in two predominant types. First are the one and two-story false front buildings most commonly found in small communities. Characteristics of this type include a rectangular structure covered by a gable roof which is hidden by the exaggerated facade. The false-front helped to disguise the relatively low scale of the building by hiding the true size of the structure and thus conveying a greater sense of prominence. The primary era of construction in Keya Paha County for this type occurred from the early 1880's to approximately 1910. The second numerically significant type documented by the survey was the masonry commercial block. These buildings are generally large-scale masonry buildings confined primarily to larger communities. This building type appears to have been employed between the years of 1900 and 1930, and usually consisted of one and two-story masonry structures with one or two-part compositional facades.

These buildings were often built on single 25-foot commercial lots or in double to triple-wide commercial blocks of 50 to 75 foot width.

Four properties in Keya Paha have been selected as potentially eligible to the National Register in reference to the context of Retail Commerce in the Lower Niobrara Region. These four properties have been illustrated in the following Preliminary Inventory of Commerce related buildings.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP06-001

DATE: c.1885

COMMON NAME: Commercial Building (Abandoned)

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Commerce: (12.02)

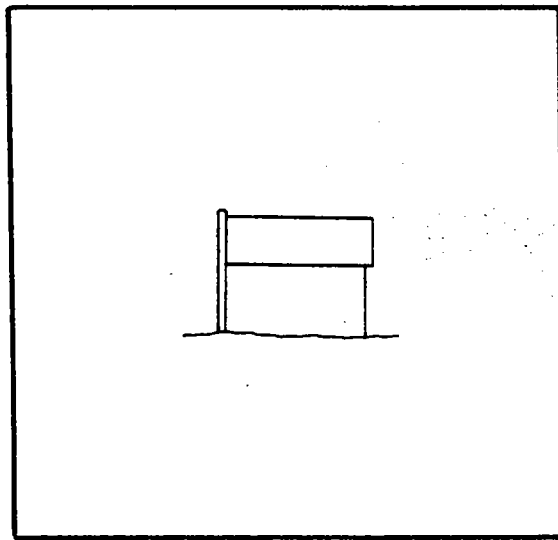
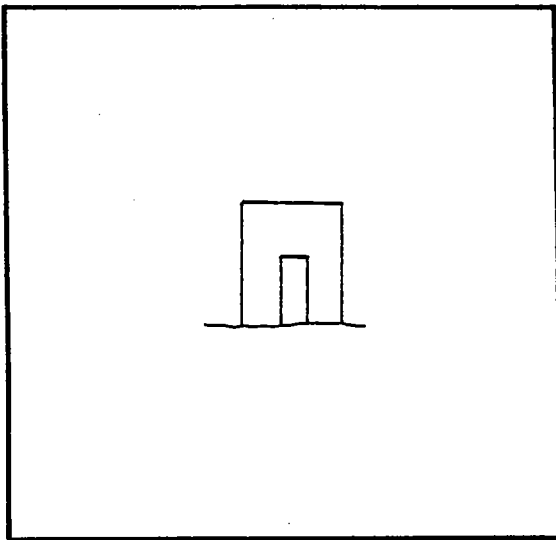
PROPERTY TYPE: Store (12.1.1)

LOCATION: See Plat Map, Mills

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 1 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 0

One-story frame commercial building indicative of the false front compositional type and significant for association with late nineteenth-century retail commerce in northeast Keya Paha County.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP06-005

DATE: c.1885

COMMON NAME: Commercial Building (Abandoned)

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Retail Commerce in the Lower Niobrara Region: (12.02.03)

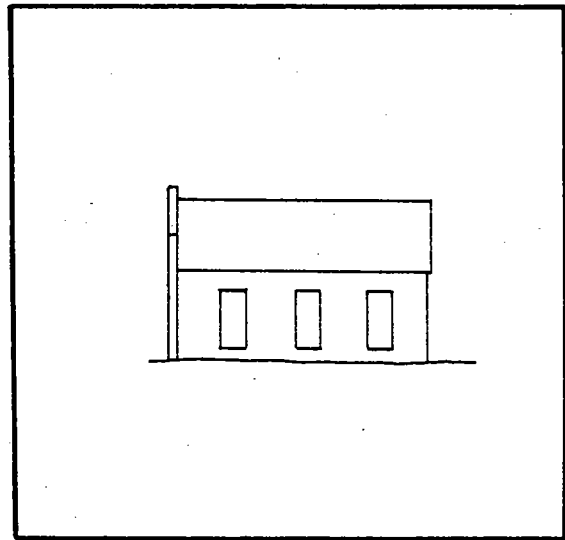
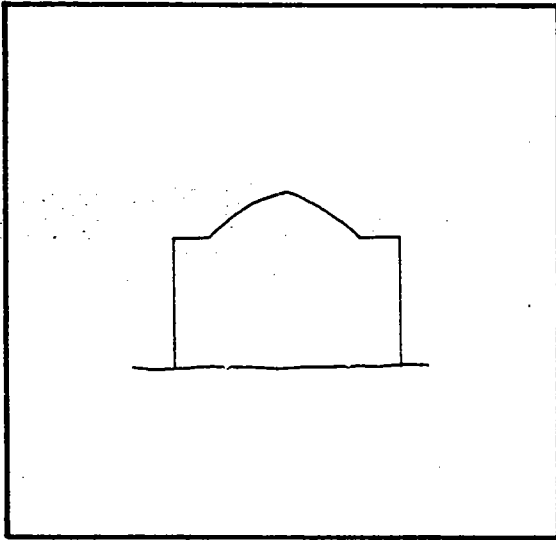
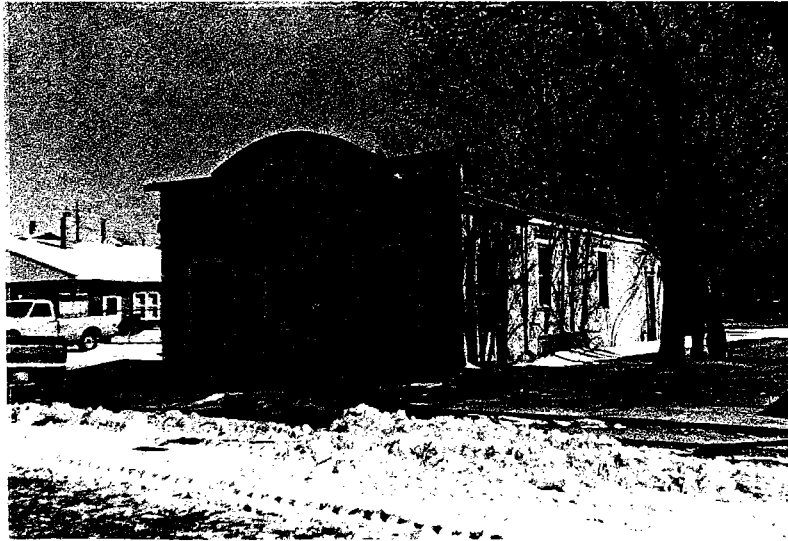
PROPERTY TYPE: General Store (12.1.1.3)

LOCATION: See Plat Map, Mills

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 1 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 0

Small scale one-story frame commercial building indicative of the false front compositional type and significant as an example of early twentieth-century retail commerce in northeast Keya Paha County.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP09-028

DATE: c.1900

COMMON NAME: Commercial Building (Abandoned)

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Retail Commerce in the Lower Niobrara Region: (12.02)

PROPERTY TYPE: Store (12.1.1)

LOCATION: ES 11th St. between "L" St. & "M" St., Springview.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 1 **STRUCTURES:** 0

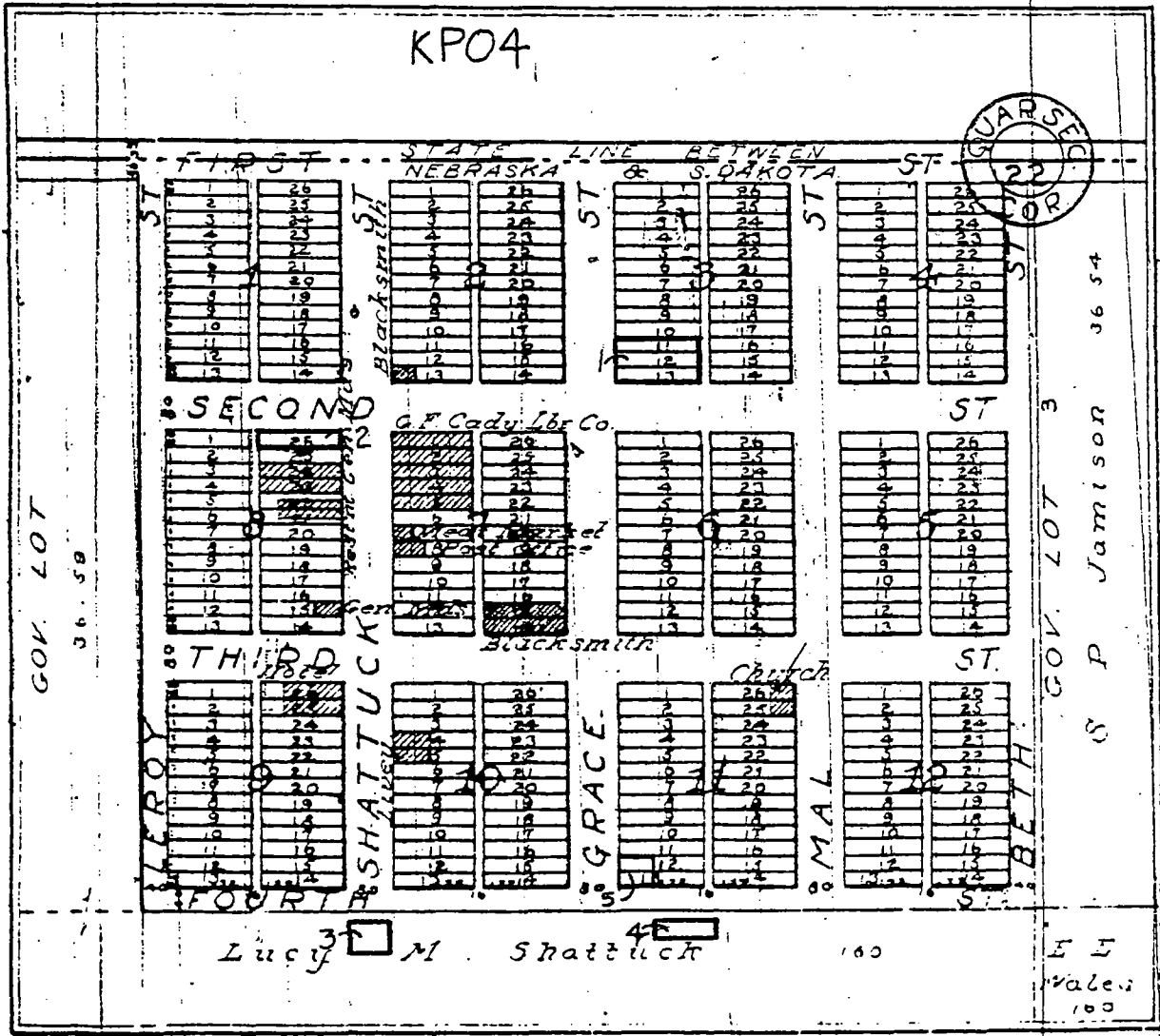
SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 0

One-story stucco false front commercial building judged potentially significant for association with early twentieth-century retail commerce in Keya Paha County. Subsequently used as the office of the Springview Herald.

JAMISON

KEYA PAHA PREC.

Scale - 300 ft = 1 in.



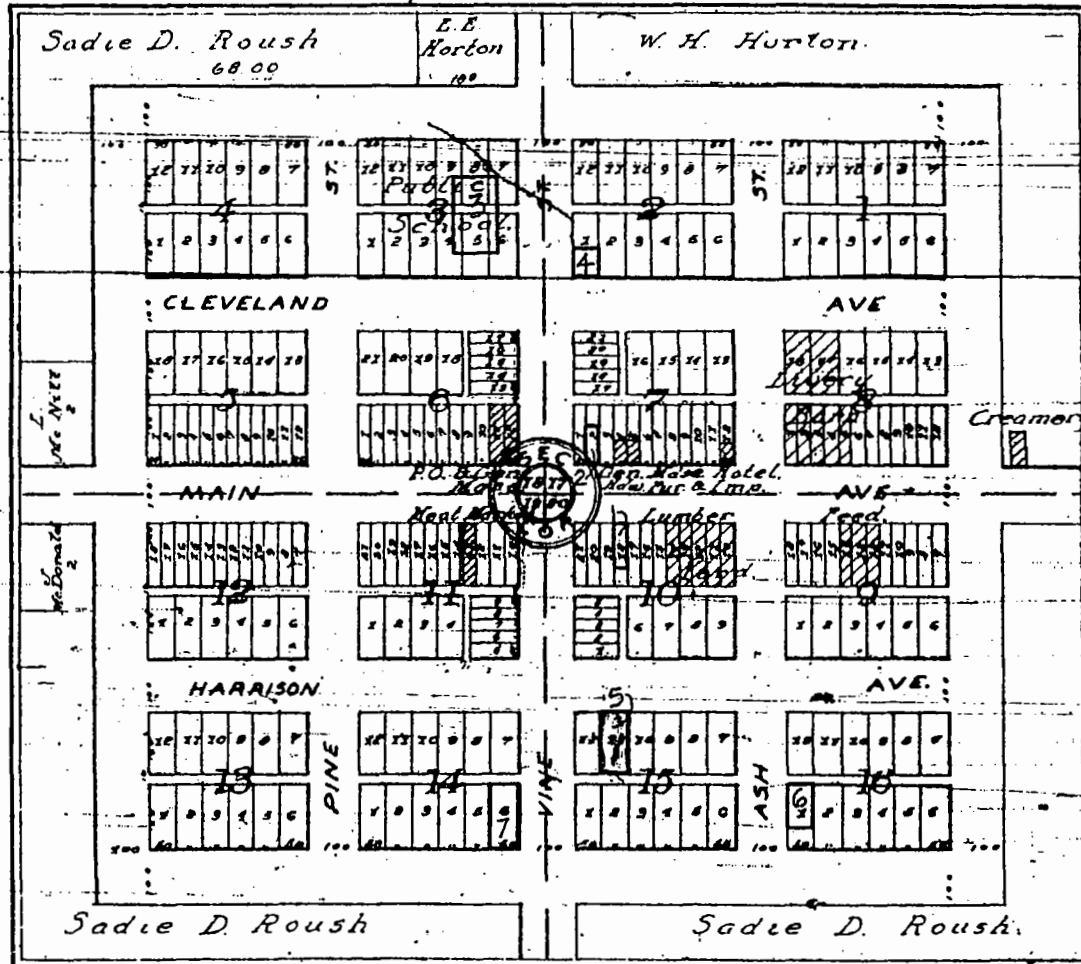
KP04: JAMISON INVENTORY, KEYA PAHA COUNTY

NeHBS NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/Common NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	Bldgs.	Sites	Contributing Struct.	Obj.	PROPERTY TYPE
KP04-001	1925	METH. EPISCOPAL CHURCH	02.06.01	2	0	0	0	12.6.4
KP04-002	C1890	ABAN HALL	04.02	1	0	0	0	04.1.5.1
KP04-004	C1900	ABAN HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP04-005	C1900	ABAN HOUSE	16.01	3	0	0	0	16.5.1

BURTON KPO2

BURTON PREC.

Scale: 300ft to 1 inch



KPO2: BURTON INVENTORY, KEYA PAHA COUNTY

NehBS NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/COMMON NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING				PROPERTY TYPE
				Bldgs.	Sites	Struct.	Obj.	
KP02-001	C1905	ABAN COMMERCIAL BLDG	12.02	1	0	0	0	12.1.1
KP02-002	C1905	ABAN COMMERCIAL BLDG	12.02	1	0	0	0	12.1.1
KP02-003	C1920	BURTON PUBLIC SCHOOL	06.01	1	0	0	0	06.3
KP02-004	C1910	ABAN HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP02-005	C1910	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP02-006	C1900	ABAN HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP02-007	C1910	FORMER HOTEL	13	3	0	0	0	12.3.1

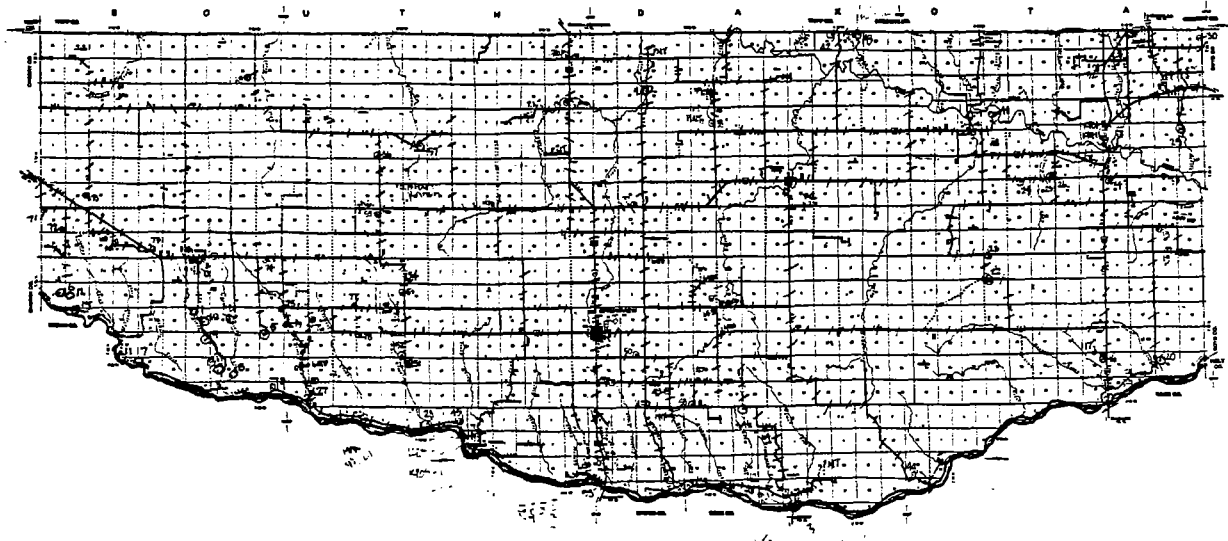


KP01: BROCKSBURG INVENTORY, KEYA PAHA COUNTY

NUMBER NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/COMMON NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING				PROPERTY TYPE
				Bldgs.	Sites	Struct.	Obj.	
KP01-001	C1890	ABAN FARMSTEAD/RANCH	16,08	7	0	0	1	16.5
KP01-002	C1912	BROCKSBURG SCHOOL	06.01.01	3	0	0	0	06.3.1:1

NeHBS NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/COMMON NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING				PROPERTY TYPE
				Bldgs.	Sites	Struct.	Obj.	
KP00-038	C1915	RANCH	08	5	0	2	0	08.1
KP00-039	C1920	RANCH	08	12	0	1	2	08.1
KP00-040	C1900	ABAN HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP00-041	C1890	STONE CELLAR	16	1	0	0	0	08.1.06
KP00-042	C1910	ABAN RANCH	08	4	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-043	C1910	ABAN RANCH	08	5	0	0	1	08.1
KP00-044	C1910	ABAN SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	0	06.3.1:1
KP00-045	C1905	ABAN HSE	08	2	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-046	C1900	CLAY RANCH	08	3	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-047	C1900	ABAN RANCH	08	3	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-048	C1910	ABAN RANCH	08	1	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-049	C1910	ABAN RANCH	08	6	0	0	2	08.1
KP00-050	C1913	RANCH	08	4	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-051	C1900	UNION CEMETERY	02	0	1	0	0	02.3.1
KP00-052	C1910	FORMER SCHOOL	06.01.01	2	0	0	0	06.3.1
KP00-053	C1910	RANCH	08.03	5	0	2	0	08.1
KP00-054	C1915	ABAN RANCH	08	3	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-055	C1910	ABAN RANCH	08	2	0	0	3	08.1
KP00-056	C1910	IVI RANCH	08.03	3	0	0	3	08.1
KP00-057	1896	ROCK HOUSE RANCH	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP00-058	C1890	ABAN HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP00-059	C1900	ABAN RANCH	08	4	0	0	2	08.1
KP00-060	C1885	ABAN HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP00-061	C1890	ABAN HOUSE	08, 16	1	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-062	C1900	ABAN RANCH	08	5	0	0	1	08.1
KP00-063	C1900	ABAN RANCH	08	2	0	0	2	08.1
KP00-064	C1905	ABAN RANCH	08	3	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-065	C1923	RANCH	08	9	0	0	0	08.1, 16.5.1:5.2
KP00-066	C1912	FORMER SCHOOL	06.01.01	2	0	0	0	06.3.1:1
KP00-067	C1913	ABAN RANCH	08	7	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-068	C1890, 1907	ABAN SCHOOLS	06.01.01	2	0	0	0	06.3.1:1
KP00-069	C1900	ABAN RANCH	08	5	0	1	2	08.1
KP00-070	C1910	ABAN SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	0	06.3.1:1
KP00-071	C1885	RANCH	08	6	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-072	C1890	ABAN RANCH	08	4	0	0	1	08.1
KP00-073	C1890	RANCH	08	8	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-074	C1915	ABAN RANCH	08	4	0	0	2	08.1
KP00-075	C1905	ABAN RANCH	08	6	0	0	2	08.1
KP00-076	C1910	ABAN SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	0	06.3.1:1
KP00-077	C1905	ABAN RANCH	08	6	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-078	C1900	ABAN HOUSE	08	2	0	0	1	08.1
KP00-079	C1905	ABAN RANCH	08	3	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-080	C1885	ABAN RANCH	08, 16	3	0	0	0	08.1

Keya Paha County Historic Buildings Survey Inventory



KP00: KEYA PAHA COUNTY RURAL INVENTORY

NeHBS NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/COMMON NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING				PROPERTY TYPE
				Bldgs.	Sites	Struct.	Obj.	
KP00-004	C1915	RANCH	08	8	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-016	C1800	ABAN SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	1	06.3.1:1
KP00-017	C1900	ABAN RANCH	08	3	0	0	1	08.1
KP00-018	C1900	ABAN FARMSTEAD/RANCH	08	2	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-019	C1900	RANCH	08	4	0	1	2	08.1
KP00-020	C1918	RANCH	08	4	0	0	1	08.1
KP00-021	C1900	RANCH	08	5	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-022	C1900	RANCH	08	7	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-023	C1910	BECK'S RANCH	08	4	0	0	1	08.1
KP00-024	C1908	ABAN RANCH	08	5	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-025	C1910	ABAN RANCH	08	5	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-026	C1905	ABAN SCHOOL	06.01.01	1	0	0	0	06.3.1
KP00-027	C1880	ABAN HOMESTEAD	08, 16	7	0	0	2	08.1
KP00-028	C1900	ABAN RANCH	08	1	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-029	C1912	RANCH	08	6	0	0	0	08.1
KP00-030	C1910	RANCH	08	7	0	0	1	08.1
KP00-031	C1920	ABAN SCHOOL	06.01.01	2	0	0	0	06.3.1
KP00-032	C1900	CEMETERY	02	0	1	0	0	02.3.1
KP00-033	C1885	FICKWEILER LOG HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP00-034	C1885	ABAN HOMESTEAD	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP00-035	C1885	ABAN RANCH	16, 08.08	6	0	0	2	08.1
KP00-036	C1910	FORMER SCHOOL	06.01.01	2	0	0	0	06.3.1:1

APPENDICES

2. Kinkaid Act Settlement in Keya Paha County

The second recommendation for future research in Keya Paha County is the examination of the properties related to Kinkaid Act Settlement. This subject has been touched upon in the recommendation discussed above and is one of the possible areas of significance for the rural properties recorded by the survey. For a discussion of the impact of the Kinkaid Act in the northern Nebraska Sand Hills , please refer to the discussion found on page 65.

properties. These eight properties displayed characteristics which were judged potentially significant with respect to the context. The further delineation of contributing versus non-contributing characteristics of Lower Niobrara LWHCG ranch buildings by the Historic Context Report is necessary for the nomination of eligible properties. For a more detailed discussion of this topic, please refer to the article on Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production found on page 58. In addition, a Preliminary Inventory of those properties potentially significant for their association with the Lower Niobrara LWHCG agriculture is found on page 36.

It is important to note that the majority of the buildings listed in the Preliminary Inventory of Agriculture properties are not significant exclusively for their association with Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production. These properties have also been considered significant for their potential association with the Historic Context of Settlement. The properties contain buildings of a more modest scale and are not significantly large examples of Lower Niobrara LWHCG farming from the period of historic importance. They may also carry significance for their possible association with Kinkaid Act Settlement (16.01).

However, despite their lack of a full complement of buildings relating to Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production agriculture, these properties were included in the Agriculture inventory for their existence as rural based properties formerly engaged in agriculture as a sole means of livelihood.

nominations of the 27 properties listed in the Preliminary Inventory of Keya Paha County historic properties. The properties which appear in the Preliminary Inventory are those which appear potentially eligible for the National Register and should be acted upon immediately following the submittal of this report.

Potential Historic Context Studies/Multiple Property Nominations

The following priority for future work recommended by Save America's Heritage is presented at this point as the topics which appears to have the greatest potential for development into Historic Context Reports. The bases for these suggestions were derived from pre-survey research, agricultural analyses, and reconnaissance survey observations.

1. Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production (08.03)

Despite the lack of a substantial number of potentially eligible properties, it is Save America's Heritage recommendation that the Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production Historic Context Report (08.03) be developed by the NeSHPO. The development of this context will undoubtedly be of importance to the northern Nebraska Sand Hills region and will include the entirety of Keya Paha County. The reconnaissance survey of Keya Paha County recorded a total of sixty-five rural properties with forty-nine of these related to the Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production Historic Context. Of the forty-nine properties, a subgroup of eight were selected for the Preliminary Inventory of potentially eligible

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

Throughout the duration of the Keya Paha County survey, random observations were recorded in an effort to later construct recommendations for future work. The general impressions recorded by the survey team were then combined with a post-survey analysis of documented historic properties. The resulting recommendations were conceptualized by Save America's Heritage to fit the "tools" of preservation and documentation available to the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office. These tools consist of Multiple Property, Historic District, and individual nominations to the National Register of Historic Places as well as intensive survey relating to Historic Context Reports.

The following suggestions are separated into two categories and are presented as follows: 1) NeSHPO National Register Follow-Up, and 2) Potential Historic Context Studies.

National Register Recommendations

The first of the two categories, the NeSHPO National Register Follow-Up, is a basic summary of the potential National Register of Historic Places listing activities associated with the Keya Paha County survey.

Save America's Heritage strongly suggests the drafting of nominations for all properties judged by NeSHPO staff as potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The drafting of these nominations may occur in two basic forms. First, as Multiple Property nominations for all properties which relate to Historic Contexts developed by the NeSHPO, or as individual



Supratype No. 10; R, 1.0u, 1.0s, G, Lo. Among the 34 supratypes present in Keya Paha County, Supratype No. 10 was the third most frequently recorded house form representing 8.7% of the 115 surveyed houses. The essential characteristics of this type consist of a one story rectangular-shaped core with the narrowest dimension ranging from 14 to 19 feet and a gable roof running in a longitudinal orientation with the narrow dimension of the core facing the street. In most cases the core is flanked by a shorter side wing containing a one-story entry porch. This house type appears to have been first employed in the early settlement years of the 1890s. This house type was more often found in rural locations (70%) rather than town locations (30%).



Supratype No. 17; R, 1.5u, 1.0s, G, Lo. Among the 34 supratypes present in Keya Paha County, Supratype No. 17 was the second most frequently recorded house form representing 12.2% of the 115 surveyed houses. The essential characteristics of this type consist of a rectangular-shaped core with the narrowest dimension ranging from 20 to 29 feet, a height of one-story, and a gable roof running in a longitudinal orientation. This house type appears to have been first employed in the early settlement years of the 1980's and was carried into the 1920's where it was more commonly adorned with "craftsman" decorative motifs. The strong representation of this house type is due mostly to its predominant use in both town and rural locations. Of the fourteen houses recorded by the survey which employed the S.17 shape, 57% were found in town locations and 43% were found in rural locations.



Supratype No. 9; R, 1.0u, 1.0s, G, La. Among the 34 supratypes present in Keya Paha County, Supratype No. 9 was the most frequently recorded house form representing 13% of the 115 surveyed houses. The essential characteristics of this type consist of a one-story, rectangular-shaped core in latitudinal orientation with a side gable-end roof ranging in width from 14 to 19 feet. Most often these types contained a perpendicular rear wing of shorter height which was, for the most part, visually obstructed by the latitudinal core. These houses were found more often in rural locations (66.6%) rather than town locations (33.3%) and appear to be one of the more popular forms of shelter employed by the first settlers.

S.2, S.3, etc.). A master list of the 34 individual types is included in this report as Appendix 3.

While 34 various supratypes may seem like a varied lot for 115 total resources, a somewhat more narrow group actually represents the majority of the documented properties. In fact, eight supertype categories account for 62.6% of all recorded properties. Furthermore, 41% of all Keya Paha County houses fit into one of only four supertype categories. The supertype recording of historic houses has produced a large volume of data which can be analyzed in a infinite number of ways. However, in an attempt to present a concise and useful summary of the supertype data, Save America's Heritage has focused on the answers to two basic questions. These are:

1. What were the numerically significant supratypes of the entire county?
2. What were the numerically significant supratypes of town location verses those of rural location?

To answer these questions, a numerical analysis of the 34 supratypes was performed to derive a minimum level of significance. With a survey total of 115 houses, this minimum level was established at 8.5% necessitating a representation of 10 or more houses. Of the 34 supratypes generated by the Keya Paha County survey, three individual types exceed the 8.5 level and are summarized in the following discussion.

The last aspect of mass used in describing core supratypes involves the orientation of the core on the site, relative to its facade. Facade is defined as that wall which is the architectural front of the house, facing the road or the street, which is usually but not always more highly decorated. Facades also usually but not always incorporate the main entrance. Orientation is expressed in latitudinal (La), longitudinal (Lo), and non-applicable (Na) terms. There are several core shapes for which orientation is not applicable. Since only two shapes, the square (S) and the rectangular (R), are statistically significant in South Bottoms, orientation will be discussed only for those two here.

For rectangular shapes, if the narrow (gable) end faces the street, the axis of its roof is perpendicular to the street. Its orientation is then termed longitudinal (Lo). If the eave side faces the street, its roof ridge runs parallel to the street and its orientation is described as latitudinal (La). Orientation is always applicable for rectangular cores.

For square shapes (S), where both the front and side dimensions are equal, we would normally consider orientation to be non-applicable (Na). This is true for squares with hipped or pyramidal roofs. However, if the square core is sheltered by a gable roof, the ridge provides an illusion of orientation as though it were rectangular in shape. Therefore, square shapes with gable roofs have orientation recorded in the same fashion as that of rectangular cores.

In summary, core supratypes are external massing categorizations applied to the core structure of houses. Core structure is the predominant mass element which cannot be further subdivided (that portion of the house exclusive of subordinate wings and porches). Five massing aspects of the core are used to derive the supertype---its shape, relative size, height, roof type, and orientation. Particular combinations of these aspects are designated numerically (S.#). (D. Murphy: South Bottoms Historic District National Register Nomination, 1987, 1-4).

Keya Paha County House Types

The use of the Core Supertype analysis in the reconnaissance level survey proved beneficial in that it created an objective process of interpretation for the recording of historic residences. The residential properties documented by the Keya Paha County survey are represented by 34 different supratypes. a numerical designation has been assigned to each of these 34 types (e.g., S.1,

facade wall, the top of which is expressed by the eave line (Figure 3). Thus attics, the space beneath a sloping roof, are not considered in determinations of height.

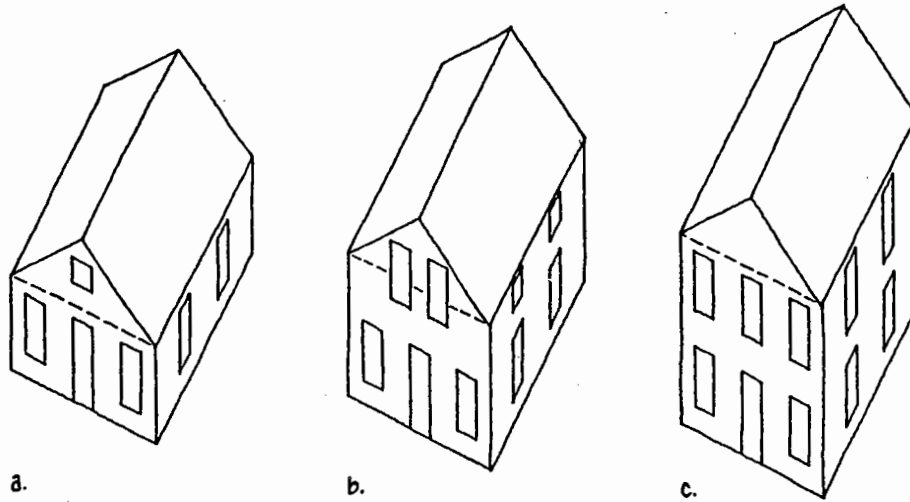


Fig. 3. Wall height guidelines illustrated, note the eave line:
a) one story, b) one-and-one-half story, c) two story
(after Murphy).

The fourth massing element is roof type. These are so well known that they need little explanation. The supratypal method utilizes only four generic types for simplicity, subsuming under these all the variants (Figure 4). The four types include flat (F), shed (S), hipped (H, including pyramidal and mansard), and gabled (G, including gambrel and gerkinhead).

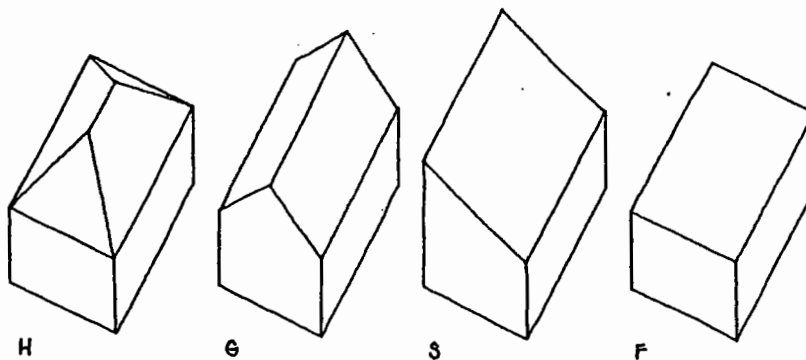


Fig. 4. Generic roof types: H: hipped; G: gable; S: shed; F: flat
(after Murphy).

Core supratypes are defined by combinations of five massing elements as applied to the core structure of houses. Core structure is defined as the predominant mass element which cannot be further subdivided (Figure 2). In general, core refers to that portion of a house which is exclusive of wings and porches. The mass elements which compose the core include its shape, relative size, wall height, roof type, and its orientation on the site.

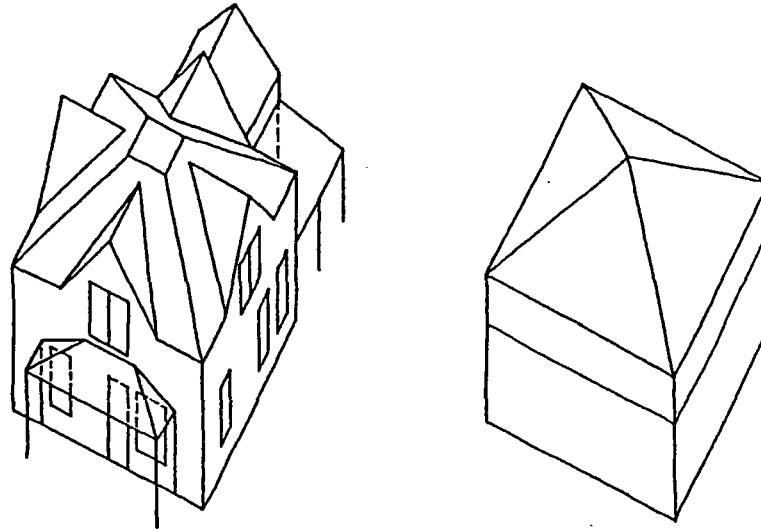


Fig. 2. The core structure derived from the house (after Murphy).

Shape designations for core structures are geometric, based on the ground-level outline of the core. Designations include square (S), rectangular (R), tee-shaped (T), ell-shaped (L), cross-shaped (X), U-shaped (U), polygonal (P), H-shaped (H), courtyard (C), irregular (I), and circular (O).

The horizontal size of the core is related to a need to distinguish large houses from small ones. Size, in the supratype method, refers to horizontal dimension and is applied only to the narrowest dimension of the core, or to its width. While actual dimensions are recorded, houses are sorted based upon "units" of measurement which approximate the number of rooms a given width normally could contain (e.g., one, one with hall, two rooms, etc.). Units of width in the South Bottoms Historic District are defined as 0.5 (less than 14 ft.), 1.0 (14-19 ft.), 1.5 (20-29 ft.), 2.0 (30-39 ft.), and 2.5 (40 ft. or greater).

The second measurement of size involves the height of the core. We designate this dimension in terms of stories, even though it is based exclusively on the height of the external wall, not on the amount of usable internal space. The measurement is based on the

A Supratype Summary of Keya Paha County House Types

It is no surprise that domestic buildings are the most frequently recorded resource in reconnaissance level surveys. The Keya Paha County survey was no exception producing a total of 115 residential resources. This total represents 32% of the 360 contributing buildings within the study area. The preservation of this building type can be attributed to the continuing social need for shelter and the predominant location of houses in extant communities where the opportunity for occupancy is greater. The recording of residential buildings in the Keya Paha County survey included not only occupied resources, but abandoned as well. In addition, all houses that were surveyed as part of a church site or farmstead were included in the aforementioned totals.

In consideration of the large abundance of these resources and in an attempt to avoid "stylistic" designations, the method of Core Supratype Analysis (as developed by the Midwest Vernacular Architecture Committee, D. Murphy: 1985) has been implemented. The supratype analysis eliminated the objective labeling of domestic buildings according to "style" and imposes instead, an objective description based on the primary external mass of the house. To best define the components of the method, an excerpt from the South Bottoms Historic District National Register Nomination (D. Murphy: 1987, 1-4) is included below.

The supratype is a categorization based exclusively on the external massing of houses, similar to that first developed by Kniffen (1936) under the ruberick of "type." The term "supratype" is applied here to distinguish it from the more current methods of type analysis which are based on form, that is, on external massing and internal space, such as that developed by Glassie (1975).

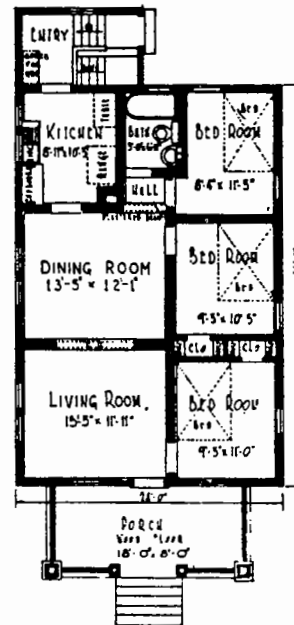
sought-after styles. They also welcomed alterations to existing plans as well as custom designed houses.

Save America's Heritage recognizes the importance of catalogue houses to the history of Nebraska. Through the thirty years of catalogue house production, catalogue house companies, especially Sears, has set impressive records of houses sold. Unpretentiously, these houses have been integrated into the architectural landscape and are symbols of innovation in the modern housing industry. The sheer number which were estimated to have been built testifies to the popularity of catalogue homes and reflects twentieth-century attitudes.

50,000 by 1930, more than any other mail order Company (Stevenson and Jandl 1986).



"The Hampton" was available from Sears and Roebuck (1925-29), from Houses by Mail, Stevenson and Jandl, 1986.



Although catalogue houses were available anywhere the railroad went, popularity of these houses was concentrated in the midwest. Nebraska, and more specifically the sand hills region were not excluded from this 20th century phenomena. Stevenson and Jandl (1986) have identified 20 Sears mail-order houses constructed in Nebraska according to the records from the Sears archives. Documentation of houses includes style, location, and date of construction. Unfortunately, the Sears Company did not keep extensive records on every house sold. Further, numerous house plans were sold without the pre-cut lumber package. In these instances, it is even harder to estimate how many of these houses were actually built and even more difficult to locate. To further complicate matters, it is very difficult to identify a catalogue house just by viewing the exterior. Sears offered a wide selection of the most

Catalogue Houses

The homesteader got most of his items through mail order catalogues, including, sometimes, his wife, if one could call the matrimonial papers, the heart-and-hand publications, catalogue. They did describe the offerings rather fully but with, perhaps, a little less honesty than Montgomery Ward or Sears Roebuck.

Sandhill Sundays (1930)
by Mari Sandoz

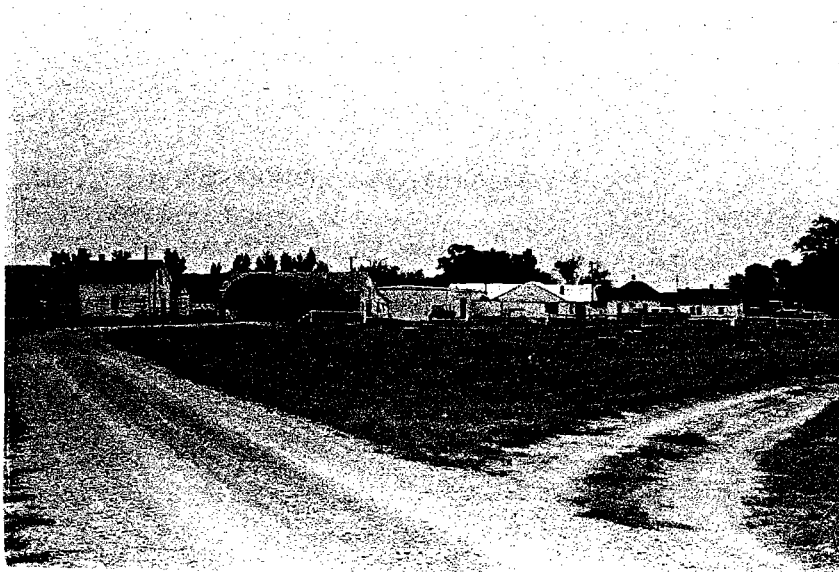
Before the days of modern transportation, the physical landscape of many regions influenced and dictated the type of architecture executed. The Sand Hills region of Nebraska offered very little in terms of native building materials for homesteaders. They made do with materials at hand which consisted of a few trees for lumber and plenty of sod for "bricks". The sod house came to represent a common house type known to the plains. Landscape historian J.B. Jackson, described the limitations of materials in the built environment in his book Discovering The Vernacular Landscape, "...In the West... new houses are either of the prefabricated, mail-order variety or made of concrete block for lack of inexpensive lumber," (1984).

Soon after early settlement, the newly established railway system began shipping merchandise to once isolated places. The availability of lumber increased and it soon became the dominant building material. Construction on the plains was at its peak.

The late 19th and early 20th centuries were ripe for entrepreneurs who sold architectural plans as well as the houses themselves. The Hodgeson Company, Alladin Homes, Montgomery Ward, and Sears and Roebuck all had their start in the prefabricated housing business between 1895 and 1910. Sears however, was the largest: its sales reached 30,000 houses by 1925 and nearly

slowly disappears in favor of the more economical, more temporary, more impersonal trailer house.

In the course of roughly 100 years, the evolution of the family ranch in Nebraska's Sandhills region has experienced major change. Today's vision of the ranch landscape is expressed in pictures of large frame houses and gambrel roofed barns. Will tomorrow's ranch landscape consist of trailer homes and Behlen buildings?



unfavorable as the main dwelling. A new main house is built with the former house left for the grandparents to live. Eventually, the original house either falls in disrepair, is used for scrap materials, or becomes an outbuilding to house livestock or grain. Sheathing material such as stucco and tin also find practical use in the protection of deteriorated outbuildings in need of repair. One by one the original frame homestead buildings begin to fall. The once important large gambrel roofed barn finds minor use as a part-time garage. The two tall silos flanking it threaten to collapse. But behind the barn is a complex of new pre-fabricated with gleaming metal roofs (J.B. Jackson, 1984).

Prefabricated buildings designed and manufactured by large companies from far away places find their way into the ranch landscape. The symbiotic relationship once held by the buildings and the settlers who created them becomes blurred. Even the family house each one unique to its environment

After the acreage was located and property markers were established, the homesteader began the task of breaking the virgin ground. Farming was the original intention but the sandy composition of the land would soon prove otherwise. Simultaneous to the turning of the land came the construction of a dwelling. Making do with material at hand, many of the early shelters were built out of sod or in the earth itself. Lumber was also available via the railroad. Other buildings essential to the ranch practice such as an outhouse, barn, and other outbuildings, soon followed. These structures were most always constructed of lumber.

As the family ranch continued operation, there began a transfer of responsibility from one generation to the next. Children became apprentices to the practices of ranch operation for in time, they would assume responsibility. This transfer of control creates the second generation family ranch.

The Kinkaid Act becomes a historic document representing a stage in early settlement. By this time, methods for ranching have been established. There also exists a house, and the other necessary outbuildings. Changes made to the ranch will build upon what already exists. Additions to the house take place as the family continues to increase. Technological advances in farm machinery require buildings to house them. It is in this period that we see the physical fabric of the ranch expand with refinement in experimental operation.

As the third generation assumes responsibility for the family ranch, changes in building functions begin to shift. Because of modern conveniences such as indoor plumbing and electricity, the original house has become

Evolution of the Family Ranch

"After the new house was built, my grandfather's house was torn down...it used to sit where that concrete shop is now," (Tim Ganser interview, November 1988). This casual description given by one of the ranchers concerning his original family homestead, exemplifies the evolution of the family ranch. From original homesteaders to present day ranchers, the family ranch has not been ignorant to change. Over the years original homesteads have either expanded as a result of prosperous growth or dwindled to the point of raw survival as a result of changing times. It is the first of these scenarios in which we wish to explore further. As acknowledged, the physical components of the family ranch which combine to comprise one unit have evolved from a series of technological advances.

Population growth to the sandhills region saw a major increase during the teens as a result of the Kinkaid Act. Under this act settlers could claim up to 640 acres of land where previously only a maximum of 160 acres was obtainable. Thousands of acres owned by the government were granted over to eager settlers. Mari Sandoz described these people in Sandhills Sundays, (1930):

"...perhaps a potential settler should realize from the start that homesteading was not for the timid, and as soon as a man could say "I'm looking for me a piece of government land-" he was among friends. He and any family he had were welcome to eat at our table and sleep in our beds even if we children were moved to the floor. This was naturally all agreed beyond the twenty-five dollar locating and surveying fee Old Jules charged whenever the settler managed to get the money. Often the family stayed with us until their house was up."

differences between the two bills and, after approval of both houses, the Kinkaid Act was signed by President Roosevelt on April 28, 1904.

The final form of the bill provided that the homestead unit should not exceed 640 acres and that any lands which were irrigable should not be open to entry (Reynolds p. 23). Homesteaders in the territory who had occupied lands already under entry were allowed to claim adjoining lands up to the 640 acre total and have their existing house serve as the residence for the additional land (Reynolds p. 23). The additional land was then given final proof five years after the filing date.

One year later, in 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt called attention to the inadequacy of the quarter-section homestead in the arid western lands. Although Roosevelt made no specific proposals, the road was paved for congressional action. The leadership for this action was assumed by Moses P. Kinkaid of O'Neill, Nebraska who had defeated Neville in the 1902 race for the sixth district congressional seat. In April 1904, Kinkaid introduced a bill to the House of Representatives which would eventually change the settlement history of much of Western Nebraska. The intent of the bill was to "amend the homestead laws as to certain unappropriated and unreserved lands in Nebraska," (Reynold, p. 21).

The bill, as presented to the committee on Public Lands, requested a homestead of 1,280 acres in thirty-seven Nebraska counties to be acquired by a residence of five years and improvements of \$1.25 per acre for each acre claimed. The committee amended the bill to 640 acres and recommended it to the house on April 13, 1904, stating that the increased size of the homestead would compensate the homesteader on quantity of land for what it lacked in quality and productiveness (Reynolds p. 22). The report by the committee emphasized that, from 1875 to 1904, the land to which the bill applied had been rejected by homesteaders who had settled only on the quarter sections of land good enough to support cultivation. This pattern had left open for settlement the semi-arid grazing lands incapable of supporting a profitable farm on only 160 acre tracts of land (Reynolds page 22). The report also stated that, in numerous cases, the homesteaders who did file claims on the unsuitable areas had only done so with the intent of selling the land to the cattlemen once their claim was fulfilled. A committee was appointed to work out the

stream fronts and water holes. In fact, a great deal of the Sand Hills area had never been homesteaded and was used only for open grazing (Tubbs, p. 118). The condition of the homesteaders in the Sand Hills region during the 1870's convinced much of the population that the settlement of the area under the existing Homestead or Timber Claim Acts was not satisfactory. The land which the settlers could obtain was not sufficient for sustaining a livelihood in the Sand Hills region. Even in the areas of the Sand Hills where cultivation of crops was possible, 160 to 320 acres was simply not an adequate amount for a single-family property. The original intent of the Homestead Act was to distribute the land in humid areas east of the 100th meridian but it made no provisions for increasing the size of the claim for those areas with insufficient rainfall of inadequate soils (Reynolds, p. 20). The desperate plight of the homesteader in the Sand Hills region gradually gained the support of regional and national politicians. In fact, prior to the drouth-stricken 1890's, the Public Lands Commission of 1879 recommended a homestead on grazing lands of four square miles. Cattlemen, however, were naturally satisfied with existing conditions and the four section recommendation was never accepted.

However, the idea of an enlarged homestead as a means of settling the Sand Hills was revived by T.A. Fort of North Platte following the drouth of 1890 (Tubbs, p. 118). Fort proposed a homestead of two square miles (2,560 acres) with a requirement of five years residence and annual improvements on the land (Tubbs, p. 118). By 1900, Fort had interested the recently elected Congressman William Neville in his new proposal. In 1901, Neville introduced a bill to provide a two-square mile homestead but the proposal never advanced pass the committee stage (Tubbs, p. 118).

into smaller properties of 160 to 320 acre holdings (Olson, p. 192). The majority of homesteaders, in compliance of the Act, began to cultivate the land of the northern Sand Hills. However, this proved to be an ill-fated decision due to the high susceptibility of the sand-based soil to erosion. Once the grass covered mantle was tilled under for cultivation large "blow-outs" resulted and the land which had been cultivated was rendered useless. By the end of the 1880's, the perception of the Sand Hills as an inadequate region for cultivation had been realized (Tubbs, p. 117).

In the 1890's, faced with drouth, grasshopper plagues and economic depression, many settlers returned east or moved further west and the area experienced its first loss in population. Because of the events this decade, the ultimate impact of the Homestead Act in the northern Sand Hills was relatively short-lived and uneventful. This however, is in marked contrast to the impact of the Act in Nebraska as a whole.

Under the impetus of the Homestead Act and other land promotions, settlers poured into the state literally by the thousands. The population of Nebraska increased from 452,402 in 1880 to 1,058,910 in 1890, a total increase of 134% (Olson, p. 195). Also during the decade of the prosperous 1880's, twenty-six counties were organized throughout the state leaving only four counties as yet unorganized. While a great deal of credit must be given to settlement that resulted from the arrival of the railroads, it was through the Homestead Act and related federal legislation that much of Nebraska's rural lands were settled (Olson, p. 157).

Despite the statewide success of the Homestead Act, the only successful use made of the law in the Sand Hills was by cattlemen who used it to secure

Sand Hills region it was considered necessary to discuss their provisions and subsequent impact.

During the first two decades of the settlement of Nebraska (1855-1875), the Sand Hills region was left largely unsettled and remained part of Nebraska's unorganized territory. The entire region was known as Sioux country and official business was conducted through Cheyenne County. By the late 1870's and early 1880's, the Sand Hills area was beginning to experience its first influx of settlers. The period of initial settlement that followed (1880 to 1890), was one of generally good conditions and settlement increased at a steady rate. It was during this period that the first impact of the Homestead Act of 1862 was felt in the northern Nebraska Sand Hills region. While the eastern counties of the northern Sand Hills study area (Keya Paha, Brown, Rock, Blaine, Loup) had experienced homestead claims in the 1870's, the first claims filed in the western counties (Cherry, Grant, Hooker, Thomas) occurred between the years of 1880 and 1886.

The Homestead Act of 1862 provided for up to one-quarter section of "free" land (160 acres) to heads of families who had paid the \$10.00 filing fee and resided or cultivated the land for five consecutive years. Supplemental to the Homestead Act was the Timber Culture Act approved by Congress in 1873. It provided that a homesteader could acquire any additional one-quarter section by planting 40 acres with trees and caring for them for ten years.

Prior to the influx of homesteaders into the Sand Hills, a portion of the region was occupied by large cattle companies using the public domain of the open range for the grazing of cattle. When the homesteaders began to stake their claims, the open range land used by the cattle companies was subdivided

THE IMPACT OF THE KINKAID AND HOMESTEAD ACTS IN THE NORTHERN NEBRASKA SAND HILLS



The Homestead Act, and more importantly the Kinkaid Act, had a significant impact on the settlement of the Sand Hills region. Under the patronage of these acts, the population of the Sand Hills region increased tremendously. The influx of settlers spawned an era of economic prosperity which witnessed the construction of a significant number of rural buildings. In order to satisfy the requirements of their claim, the homesteaders and more significantly the Kinkaiders, were required to reside on their claims therefore necessitating the construction of buildings for human and animal occupancy. It is these buildings which are of particular interest to the survey results based on their relation to this important period of settlement. Based on the contributions these acts made to the historic built environment of the northern

the most suitable system of farming available to the settlers in the region was the utilization of native vegetation. The type of farming subsequently established consisted of the cutting of native grass hay and the open grazing of cattle. A specific portion of the area adjacent the upper Elkhorn River valley in Rock and Holt counties was particularly significant as a source of market hay during the period of historic importance (Hedges and Elliott, p. 12). In addition to this, other portions of the region contained flat-level stretches of land known locally as "hay flats". Wild hay was the principal source of income for the area. Many of the permanent settlers in the Elkhorn River valley relied upon the hay business for employment. These occupations involved hay stacking, bailing, hauling, and the eventual loading of hay on railroad cars (Rock Co. Centennial, p. 12). The climax of the Wild Hay industry occurred during the first decade of the twentieth-century. In July of 1902, the Newport Eagle newspaper reported that railroad figures for the year indicated a total of approximately 25,000 tons of hay were shipped from the Newport station. At an average price of \$6 per ton, the sale of wild hay alone accounted for a local income of approximately \$150,000 (Rock Co., Centennial, p. 12). As a result of the development of the hay market in Newport, large hay barns were constructed to provide storage for hay awaiting shipping. During this period, ten large hay barns were constructed in Newport with two of these still extant and available for reconnaissance level survey (RO03-026, RO03-034).

The Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production area is characterized by the combination of cattle grazing, wild hay production, and crop farming. However, during the period of historic importance (1890-1925) less dependence was placed upon crop farming and more upon hay production and grazing (Hedges and Elliott, p. 57). Wild hay was the principal source of income in the area and, from 1910 to 1934, approximately one-half of the crop land was devoted to the production of wild hay (Garey, 1937, p. 28).

Table 2: Percentage of crop land occupied by crops designated for the period 1910-1930, Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production area.

Percentage of crop land	1910	1915	1920	1925	1930
Wild Hay	48.0%	46.0%	51.0%	54.0%	50.0%
Alfalfa	3.0%	5.0%	6.0%	4.0%	3.0%
Rye	3.0%	6.0%	6.0%	3.0%	8.0%
Oats	12.0%	8.0%	8.0%	5.0%	8.0%
Wheat	4.0%	3.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Corn	30.0%	32.0%	28.0%	29.0%	24.0%
Other	---	---	---	4.0%	6.0%

*Source: The University Of Nebraska College of Agriculture Experiment Station Research Bulletin No. 299, May 1936.

The suitability of the region for hay production and grazing is based upon the environmental conditions which exist in the area. Like the neighboring Sand Hills, it is an area of light sand-based soils which are highly susceptible to blowing and erosion. The early permanent white settlers found it essential to maintain a grass-covering and prevent the development of "blow-outs" (Hedges and Elliott, p. 13). Based on the susceptibility of the soil to wind erosion,

Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production

The Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production area is located in the north-central portion of the state, (Fig. 6). This region is quite irregular in shape, but basically consists of an area which extends thirty to eighty miles south from the South Dakota border and includes the Niobrara and upper Elkhorn River valleys. This area is between the Loess Hill region in the eastern part of the state and the Sand Hill region in the north-central and northwestern part of the state (Garey, p. 28). Because of this location, it is considered an area of agricultural transition between the Sand Hills cattle country to the west and the Northeast Intensive Livestock area to the east.

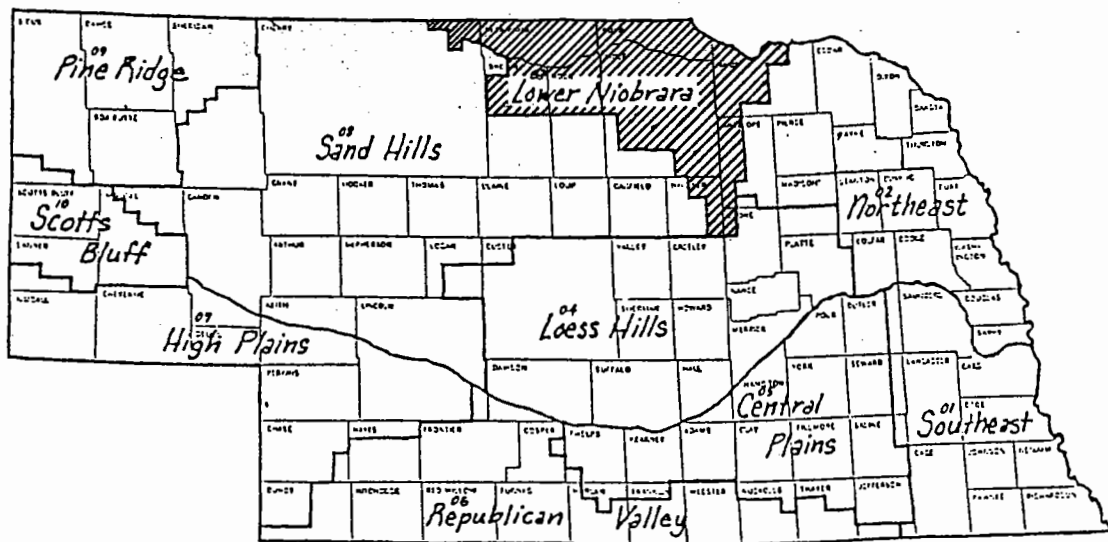


Fig. 6. Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production area.

Production (08.05), 6). Republican Valley General Farming, Cash Grain, and Livestock Production (08.06), 7). High Plains Cash Grain, Livestock and Potato Production (08.07), 8). Sand Hills Range Livestock Production (08.08), 9). Pine Ridge Range Livestock, Cash Grain and Potato Production (08.09), 10). Scottsbluff Livestock, Cash Grain and Root Crop Production.

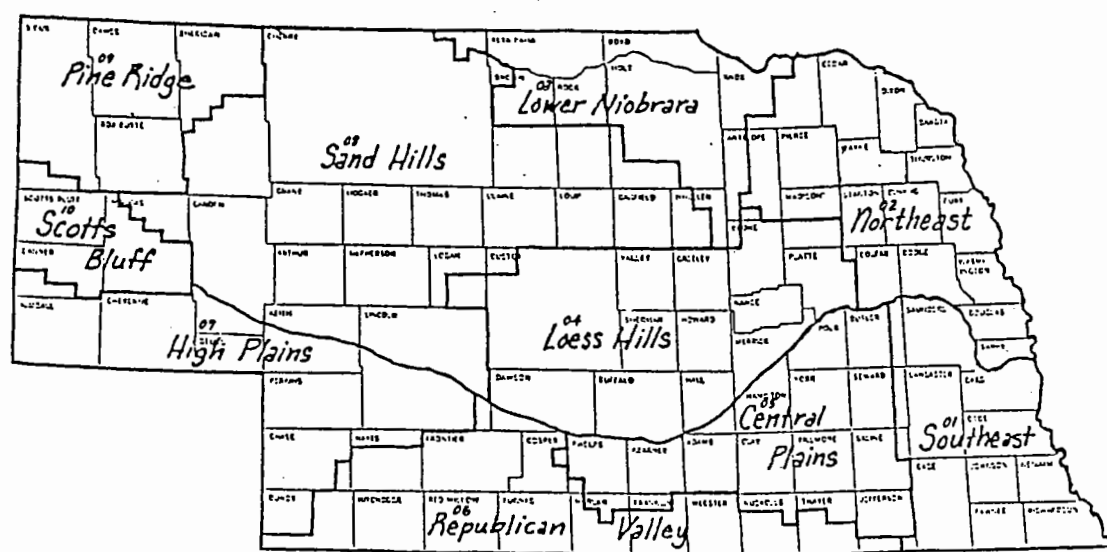


Fig. 5. Type-of-Farming and Geographic Regions for the state of Nebraska.

As evidenced by the map illustrated in Figure number 5, the type-of-farming region which blankets the Keya Paha County Historic Buildings Survey area has been defined as the Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain Production area. In an effort to address this predominate type-of-farming region, Save America's Heritage has included a discussion of its fundamental characteristics and the resulting set of historic building associated with its production.

Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production Area, 2). the Southeastern General Farming Area, 3). the Southern Cash Grain and Livestock Area, 4). the Central Corn and Livestock Area, 5). the Central Hay and Livestock Area, 6). the Sand Hill Cattle Ranching Area, 7). the Southwestern Wheat Area, 8). the High Plains Small Grain and Grazing Area, 9). the Irrigated Area.

No sharply defined boundary lines can be drawn between the areas. In most cases, the transition from one area to another is gradual. The differences lie mainly in the dominant enterprises and their relative importance in the farming systems (Hedges and Elliott, p. 22).

NeSHPO Agriculture Historic Context Boundaries

The boundaries originally delineated by Hedges and Elliott have subsequently been modified by the NeSHPO in an effort to incorporate them into the framework of historic contexts required by federal standards. With the previously mentioned regions serving as the basis for definition, the NeSHPO has developed a ten region geographic and agricultural definition of the state of Nebraska. The zones devised reflect the natural characteristics of the landscape, representing identifiable regions and the types of farming which naturally developed in response to the landscape and climate. The ten areas redefined by the NeSHPO and incorporated into their Historic Context framework are; 1). Southeastern General Farming (08.01), 2.) Northeastern Intensive Livestock Production (08.02), 3). Lower Niobrara Livestock, Wild Hay, and Cash Grain Production (08.03), 4). Loess Hills Livestock, General Farming, and Cash Grain Production (08.04), 5). Central Plains Cash Grain and Livestock

specific bulletins which focus on the definition of the types-of-farming areas are Research Bulletin Number 244, Types of Farming in Nebraska, by Harold Hedges and F.F. Elliott (May 1930), and Research Bulletin Number 299, Factors determining Type of farming Areas in Nebraska, by L.F. Garey (May 1936). The conclusions derived by these authors regarding the spatial distribution of the farming areas has generally held true to the present day as evidenced by the conclusions of James Williams and Doug Murfield in their Agricultural Atlas of Nebraska, (University of Nebraska Press, 1977).

The term type-of-farming is used to describe a group of farms which are similar in size and enterprise combination. In this way, a group of farms having the same kind, quantity, and proportion of crops and livestock may be said to be following the same type of farming (Hedges and Elliott, pp. 3). Likewise, the term type-of-farming area, refers to an area within which there is a high degree of uniformity in the agricultural production and in the physical and economic conditions under which production takes place (Hedges and Elliott, p. 3).

The boundaries of the type areas defined by the above-mentioned authors do not conform to the county boundaries imposed by state government. Instead, the boundaries divide the state into nine regions which are distinct from each other in the nature of their cropping and livestock systems (Hedges and Elliott, p. 21). These nine regions have been designated as type-of-farming areas and have been individually labeled with titles indicating both predominant agriculture and geography.

The nine areas defined by Hedges and Elliott are; 1). the Northeast

AGRICULTURE HISTORIC CONTEXTS IN KEYA PAHA COUNTY

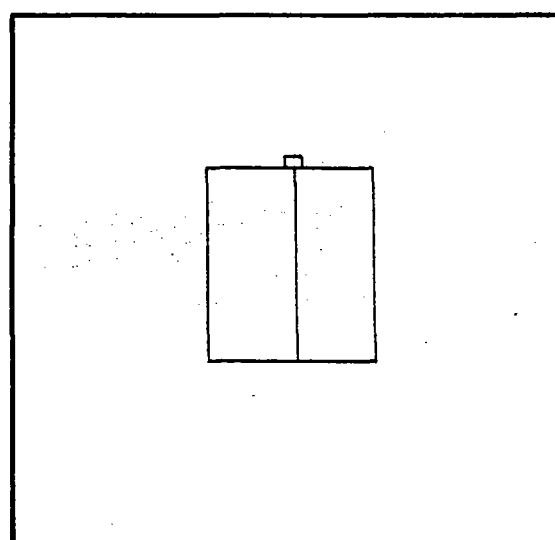
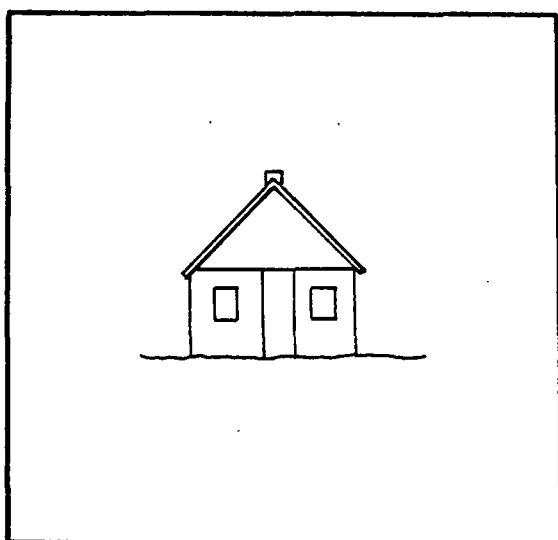


Introduction

Nebraska is a state of great diversity. Diversities exist among its people, its lands, its topography and, of more immediate concern to this discussion, its agriculture. The agricultural diversity of the state of Nebraska has been forged through one hundred years of adaptation and evolution in a land once labeled the "Great American Desert". Since that time, the "desert" waste of Nebraska has been transformed into some of the most productive farm and ranch land in the United States.

The pattern for the diverse agricultural setting in Nebraska was primarily established between 1870 and 1930. The study of the various agricultural practises in Nebraska was first addressed in the 1930's by scientists from the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture. Their efforts focused upon the definition of "system-of-farming areas" and were published in Research Bulletins issued by the College of Agriculture Experiment Station. The two

Important Themes of the Keya Paha County Historic Buildings Survey



NeHBS NUMBER: KP05-002

DATE: c.1880

COMMON NAME: Merritt Mead Log House & Former Post Office

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement: (16.01), (04)

PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1), (04.2.3)

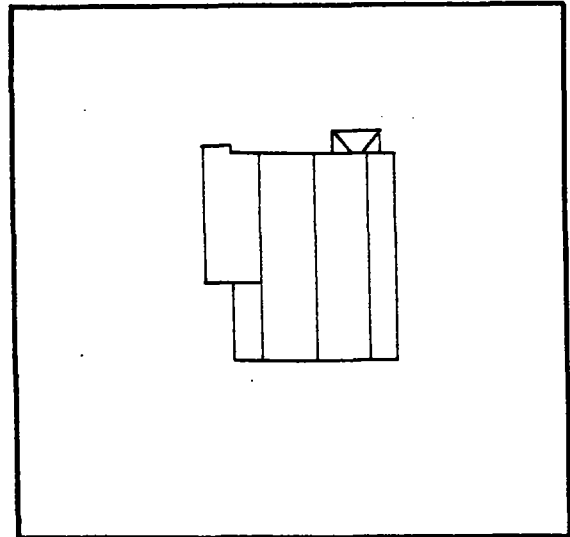
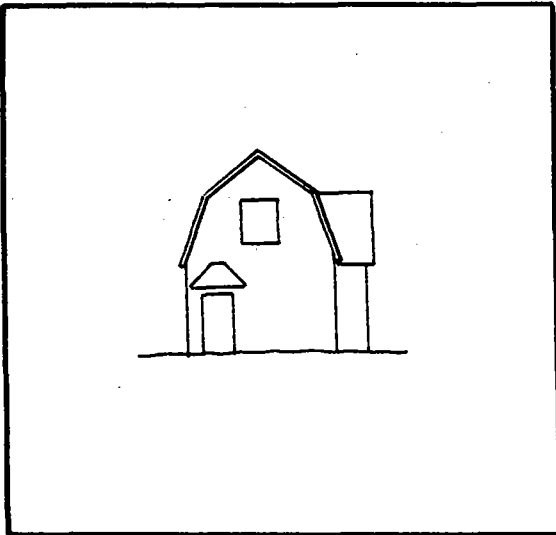
LOCATION: SS Main between Bridge & River, Meadville

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 1 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0

OBJECTS: 0

Circa 1880 log home and Post Office of Merritt Mead, founder of Meadville. Considered potentially eligible for National Register listing as a significant example of late nineteenth-century settlement in the Niobrara River Valley of Keya Paha County.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP09-054

DATE: c.1905

COMMON NAME: House (Abandoned)

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement: (16.01)

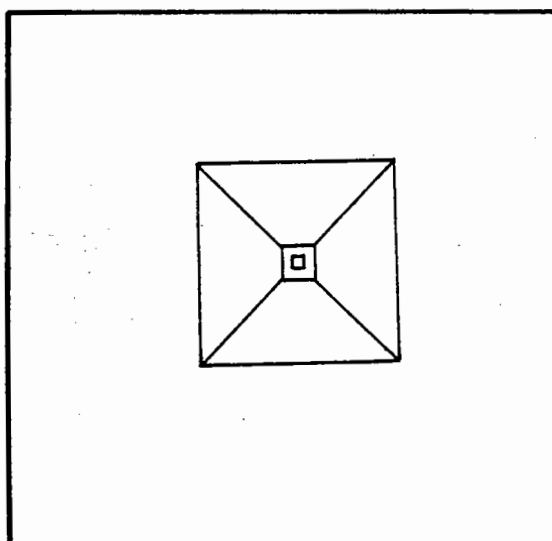
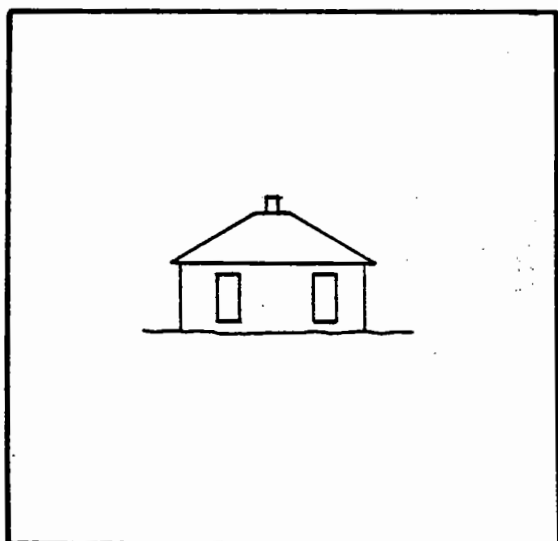
PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)

LOCATION: SEC 9th & M st, Springview

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 1 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 0

One and one-half story stucco house included in the Preliminary Inventory for the locally unique clipped gambrel roof form and enclosed exterior staircase.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP00-057

DATE: 1896

RESOURCE NAME: Rock House Ranch Homestead

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement: (16.01)

PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)

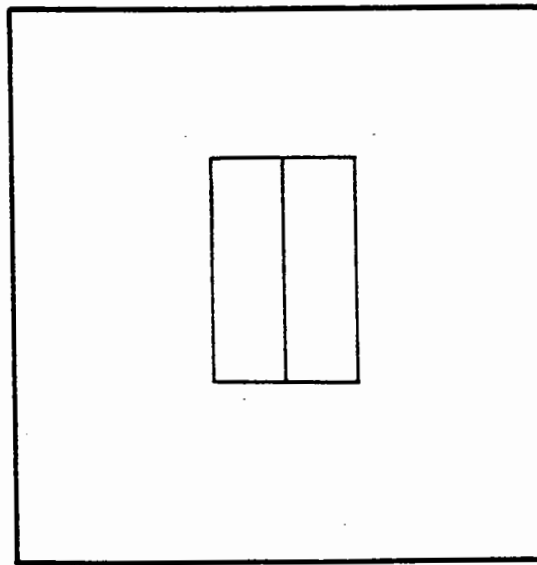
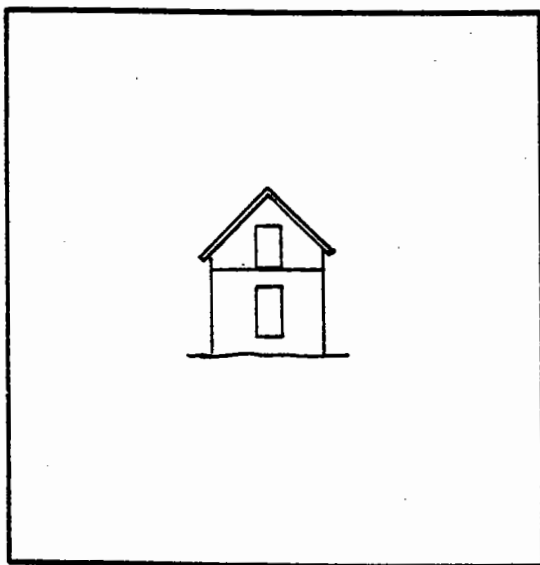
LOCATION: NW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 10, T. 34 N., R. 22 W., Meadville NW.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 2 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0

OBJECTS: 0

Despite its deteriorated condition, the Rock House Ranch was considered potentially significant for the use of locally native building materials and as a representative example of late nineteenth-century homesteading in Keya Paha County.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP00-033

DATE: c.1885

RESOURCE NAME: William Fickweiler Log House

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement: (16.01)

PROPERTY TYPE: Single Family Dwelling (16.5.1)

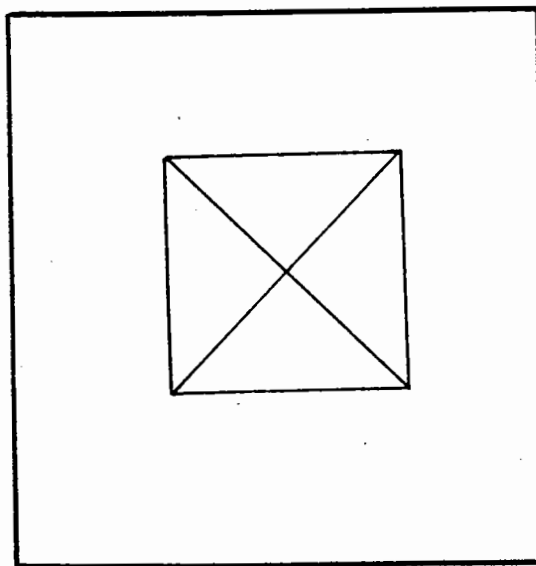
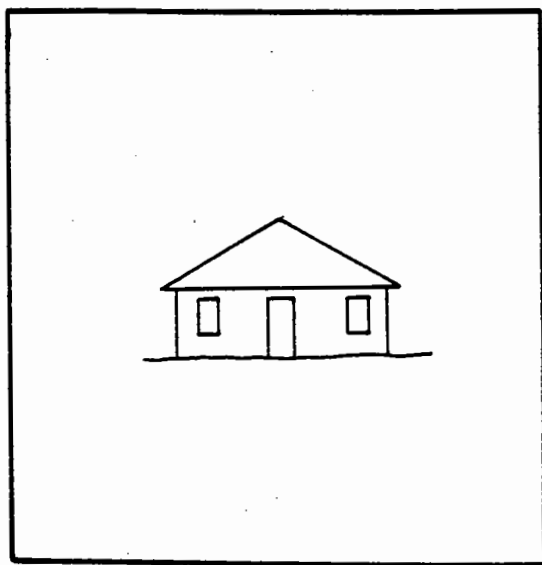
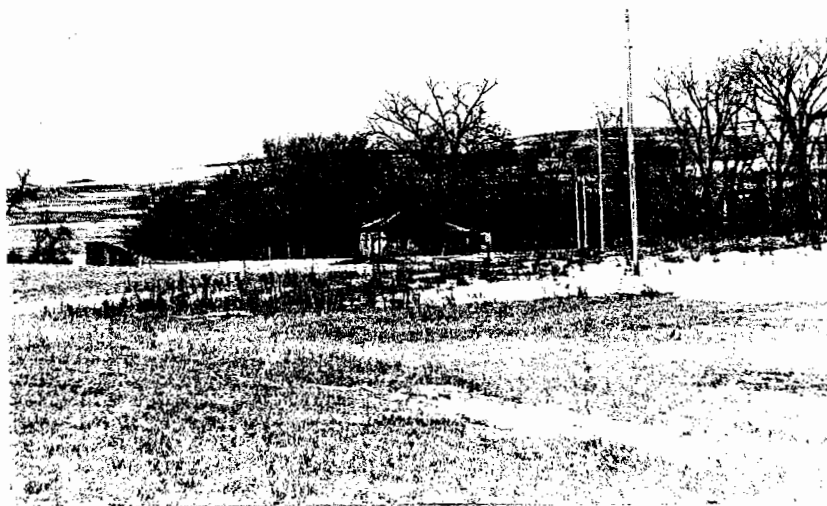
LOCATION: NW 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 23, T. 34 N., R. 17 W., Jamison.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 1 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0

OBJECTS: 0

Circa 1885 log home of german-born immigrant William Fickweiler. Potential significance based on association with the early permanent settlement period of Keya Paha County.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP00-035

DATE: c.1885

COMMON NAME: Ranch (Abandoned)

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Settlement: (16.01), Agriculture: (08.03)

PROPERTY TYPE: Ranch (08.1)

LOCATION: NE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 34, T. 35 N., R. 21 W., Meadville NE.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 6 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0

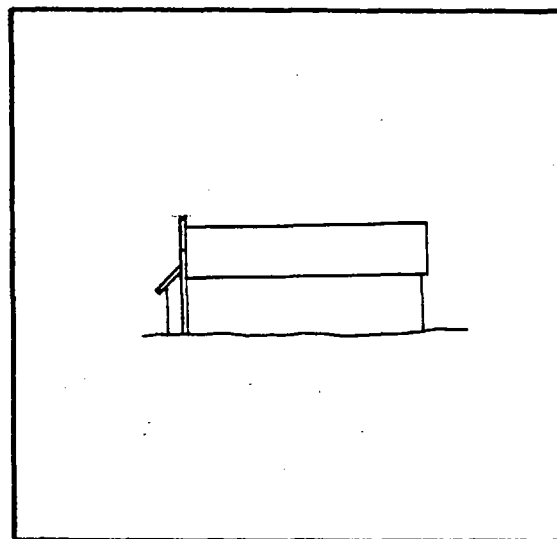
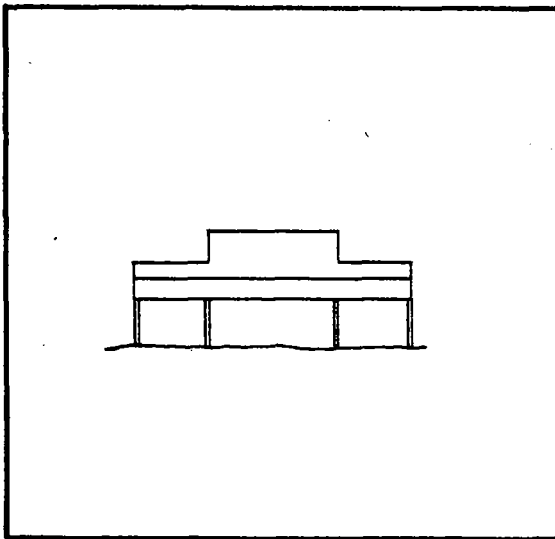
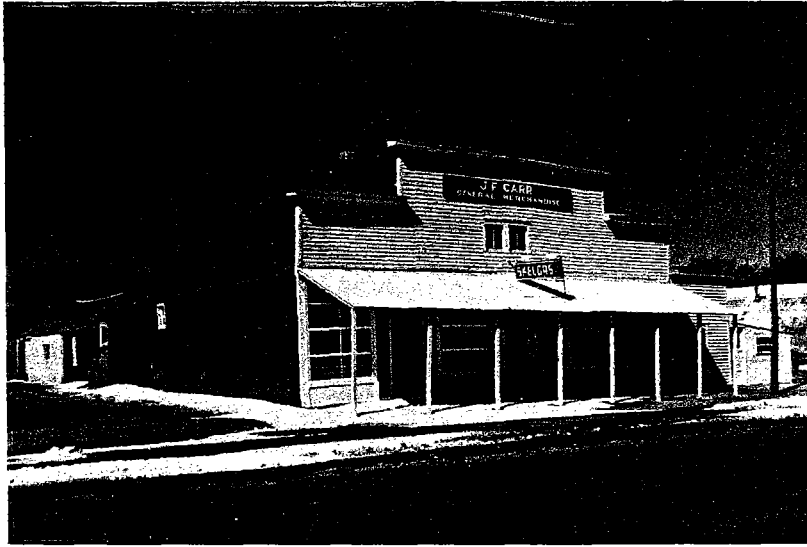
OBJECTS: 2

Abandoned farmstead included in the Preliminary Inventory primarily for the circa 1890 rock house and for association with the Historic Contexts of Settlement and Livestock, Wild Hay and Cash Grain farming.

Historic Context: Settlement

Settlement systems is the broad contextual title encompassing the division, acquisition, and ownership of land. This theme also contains the patterns generated through political, religious, or commercial activities to facilitate the establishment of cultural systems. Not surprisingly, this topic contained the greatest number of documented properties within Keya Paha County. Of the 150 total properties recorded by the Keya Paha County Historic Buildings Survey, 61 or 40.6% fall within the theme of Settlement Systems. Of these 61 properties, eight were farmstead dwellings located in the rural environs and the remaining were single-family houses located in towns.

The era of construction for the Settlement properties was generally between 1890 and 1940. The majority of the 61 settlement system properties appeared in two basic categories: (1) the simple, unadorned vernacular house and (2) the Craftsman style house built in abundance from 1915 to 1925. Very few "high-style" houses were observed. Only five of the 61 catalogued properties were considered potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This low number is primarily the result of alterations made to the historic integrity of the properties.



NeHBS NUMBER: KP09-029

DATE: 1900

RESOURCE NAME: J.F. Carr General Merchandise Store

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Retail Commerce in the Lower Niobrara Region: (12.02)

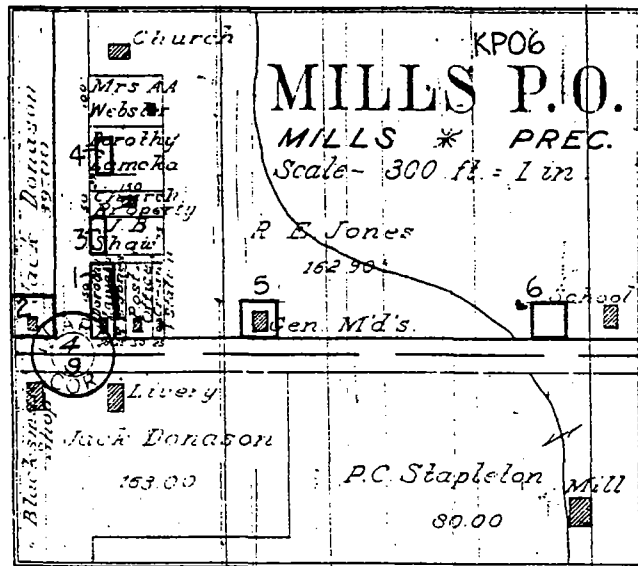
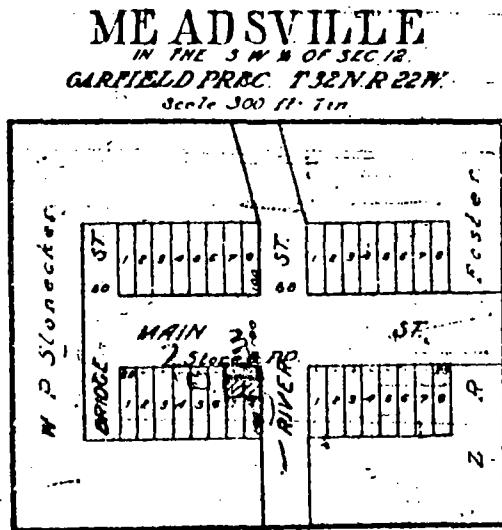
PROPERTY TYPE: General Store (12.1.1.3)

LOCATION: WS 11th St. between "L" St. & "M" St., Springview.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS: 1 **STRUCTURES:** 0

SITES: 0 **OBJECTS:** 0

One-story frame commercial building included in the Preliminary Inventory as a well-preserved example of the false front compositional type and considered significant for association with the Historic Context of Retail Commerce.



KP05: MEADVILLE INVENTORY, KEYA PAHA COUNTY

NeHBS NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/COMMON NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	Bldgs.	CONTRIBUTING			PROPERTY TYPE
					Sites	Struct.	Obj.	
KP05-001	C1905	MEADVILLE STORE & POST OFFICE	04.06, 12	1	0	0	0	14.2.3, 12.1.1.3
KP05-002	C1885	MERRIT MEAD LOG HSE & POST OFFICE	16.01, 04	1	0	0	0	16.5.1, 04.2.3
KP05-003	C1900	ABAN HSE & POST OFFICE	16.01, 04	1	0	0	0	16.5.1, 04.2.3

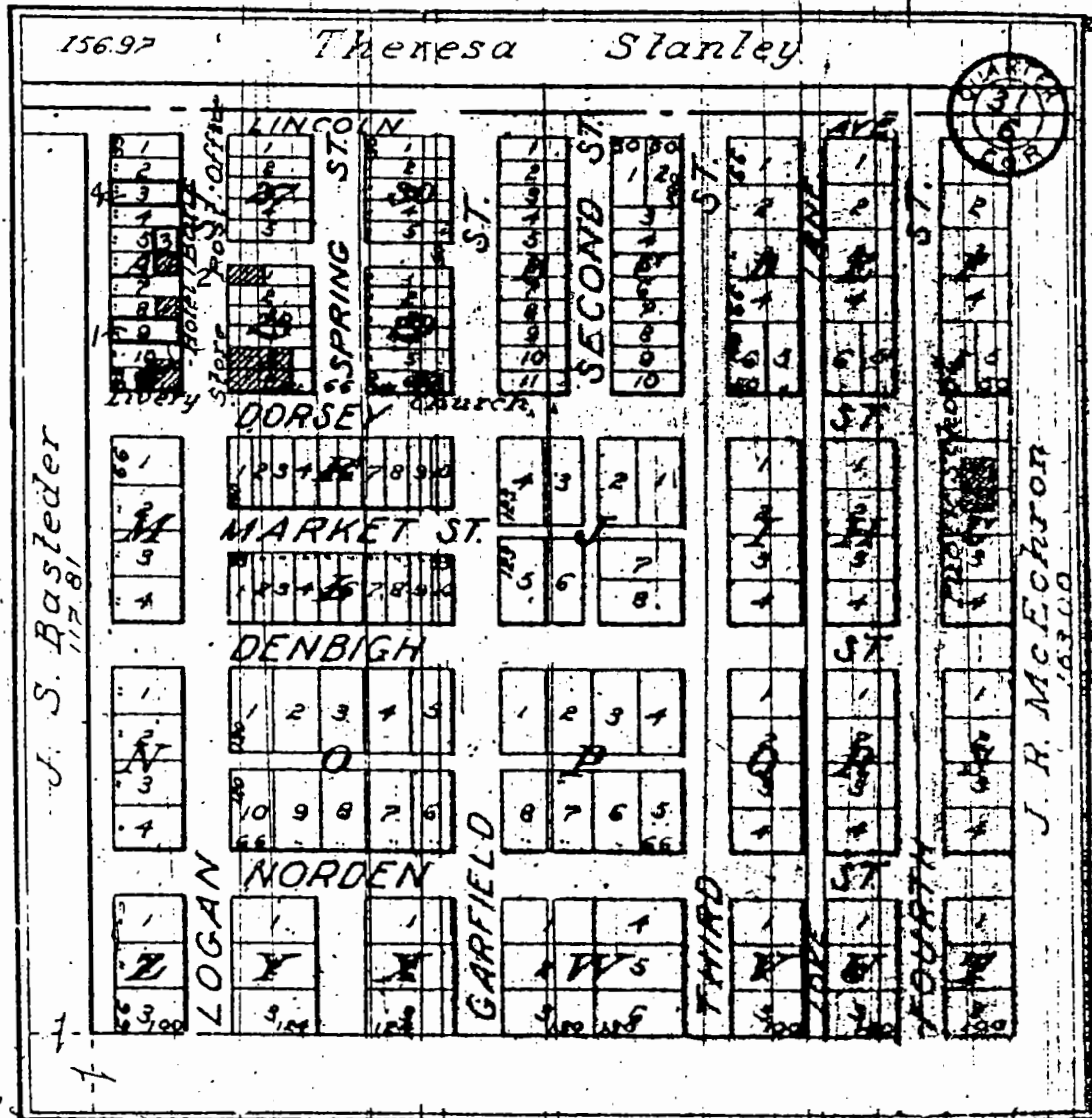
KP06: MILLS INVENTORY, KEYA PAHA COUNTY

NeHBS NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/COMMON NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	Bldgs.	CONTRIBUTING			PROPERTY TYPE
					Sites	Struct.	Obj.	
KP06-001	C1885	ABAN COMMERCIAL BLDG	12.02	1	0	0	0	12.1.1
KP06-002	C1885	ROCK OUTBUILDING	08	1	0	0	0	08.1
KP06-003	C1885	ABAN HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP06-004	C1890	ABAN HSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP06-005	C1885	ABAN COMMERCIAL BLDG	12.02	1	0	0	0	12.1.1.3
KP06-006	C1885	ABAN FARMSTEAD	08	2	0	0	0	08.1

NORDEN

McGUIRE KP07 PREC.

Scale 800 ft. = 1 inch

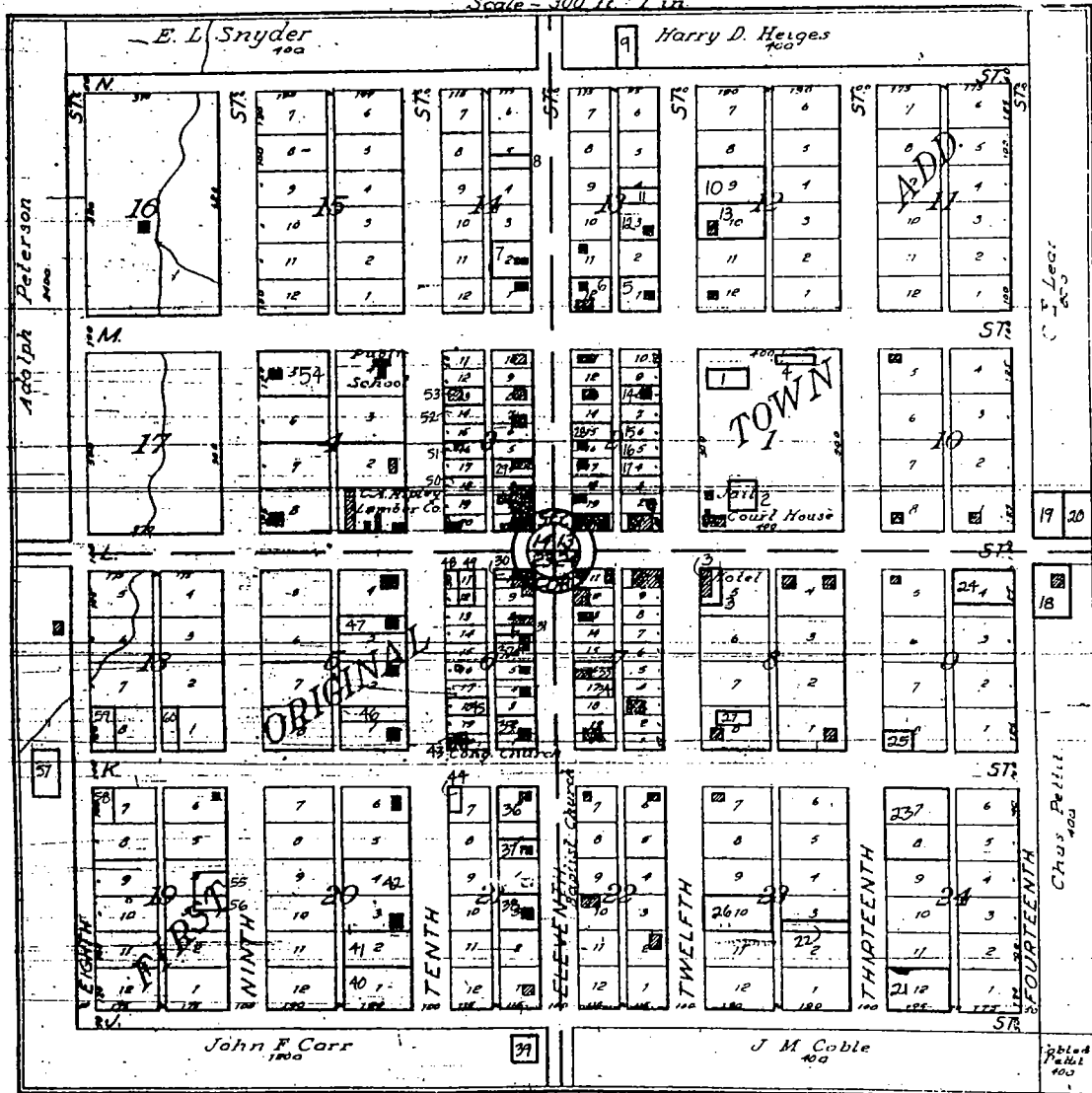


KP07: NORDEN INVENTORY, KEYA PAHA COUNTY

NeHBS NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/COMMON NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	Bldgs.	CONTRIBUTING Struct.	Sites	Obj.	PROPERTY TYPE
KP07-001	C1905	NAZARENE CHURCH	02	1	0	0	0	02.1.4:1
KP07-002	C1890	BANK OF NORDEN	15.05	1	0	0	0	15.1.1
KP07-003	C1890	ABAN COMMERCIAL BLDG	12.02	1	0	0	0	12.1.1
KP07-004	C1900	ABAN HOUSE	12, 16	1	0	0	0	16.5.1

SPRINGVIEW

COUNTY SEAT OF KEWA PAHA CO. NEB.
CUSTER PREC.
Scale - 300 ft. = 1 in.



KP09: SPRINGVIEW INVENTORY, KEWA PAHA COUNTY

NeHBS NUMBER	DATE	RESOURCE/Common NAME	HISTORIC CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTING				PROPERTY TYPE
				Bldgs.	Sites	Struct.	Obj.	
KP09-001	1915. 1929	COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL	06.01	1	0	0	0	06.3
KP09-002	1914	COUNTY COURTHOUSE	04.03	1	0	0	2	04.1.7
KP09-003	1936	AUDITORIUM	04.02, 07	1	0	0	0	07.1.2
KP09-004	C1915	COUNTY VEHICLE GAR.	04.03	1	0	0	0	13.3.3.4
KP09-005	C1905	ABAN HOUSE	16.01	3	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-006	C1905	FRMR CHURCH & PAR.	02	2	0	0	0	02.1.4, 02.4.3

KP09-007	C1905	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-008	C1920	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-009	C1910	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-010	C1905	HOUSE	16.01	3	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-011	C1920	HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-012	C1900	ABAN HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-013	C1905	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	0
KP09-014	C1905	HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-015	C1918	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-016	C1915	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-017	C1920	HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-018	C1905	HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	2	16.5.1
KP09-019	C1915	HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-02	C1910	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	1	16.5.1
KP09-020	C1925	HOUSE	16.01	3	0	0	0	16.5.1:5.2
KP09-022	C1915	HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-023	C1915	SPRINGVIEW ELEM. SCHOOL	06.01.02	1	0	0	0	06.3.2
KP09-024	C1938-48	CO. HEREFORD ASSN.	08	2	0	0	1	08.1.02
KP09-025	C1910	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	1	16.5.1
KP09-026	C1913	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	1	16.5.1
KP09-027	C1905	ABAN HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-028	C1900	ABAN COMMERCIAL BLDG	12.02	1	0	0	0	12.1.1
KP09-029	C1900	CARR GEN MERCHANDISE	12.02	1	0	0	0	12.1.1.3
KP09-031	C1915	COMMERCIAL BLDG	12.02	1	0	0	0	12.1.1
KP09-032	C1910	HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-033	C1905	COMMERCIAL BLDG	12.02	1	0	0	0	12.1.1
KP09-034	C1905	HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-035	C1920	HOUSE	16.01	3	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-036	C1905	HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-037	C1900	ABAN HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-038	C1905	HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-039	C1910	HOUSE	16.01	3	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-040	C1915	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-041	C1925	HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-042	C1912	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-043	C1910	CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	02.05.01	1	0	0	0	02.1.4:1
KP09-044	C1920	CHURCH	02	1	0	0	0	02.1.4
KP09-045	C1910	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	1	16.5.1
KP09-046	C1928	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-047	C1905	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-048	C1918	SERVICE GARAGE	13	1	0	0	0	13.3.3.4
KP09-049	C1918	AUTO DEALERSHIP	13	1	0	0	0	13.3.3.9
KP09-050	C1915	HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-051	C1915	HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	1	16.5.1
KP09-052	C1910	HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-053	C1910	HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-054	C1905	ABAN HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-055	C1914	ABAN. DIS. #55 SCHOOL	06.01	1	0	0	0	06.3
KP09-056	C1914	HOUSE	16.01	1	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-057	C1920	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-058	C1915	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-059	C1920	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	0	16.5.1
KP09-060	C1915	HOUSE	16.01	2	0	0	1	16.5.1

APPENDIX 2:**RECONNAISSANCE RESEARCH DESIGN****1. Introduction**

It is the intention of this paper to contribute two important functions towards the execution of the Reconnaissance Survey of Keya Paha County. First, it will provide Save America's Heritage (SAVE) survey team with the guidelines by which the survey will be performed and secondly, it establishes a means of communicating these guidelines to the NeHBS Survey Coordinator for critique and refinement.

The format of this Research Design will be to discuss first the "non-mechanical" aspects of the survey, followed by a discussion of the tasks considered more "mechanical" in nature. The primary purpose of the "mechanical" discussion is to define the documentation process used in the recording of historic properties while the "non-mechanical" discussion will consist of the survey objectives and limitations.

2. Objectives Of Reconnaissance Survey

After completing a preliminary outline of the objectives associated with a reconnaissance survey, it became apparent that there was an obvious division between those objectives which were qualitative in nature and those that were quantitative. This division has organized the reconnaissance objectives into the two listings that follow.

Qualitative Objectives:

The most obvious objective in a reconnaissance survey is the concept of providing a preliminary characterization of the historic resources extant in a particular geographic area. Beyond this are several other objectives which enhance both the data collected by the survey and the need for the survey itself. First among these additional objectives is the concept of establishing the setting of Nebraska's historic architecture. Each historic building survey performed will generate information which contributes to a statewide knowledge and builds a background with which future survey information can be evaluated.

Secondly, it is the objective of the historic building survey to identify specific properties or geographic areas which, in the event of an intensive survey, would contribute useful information to the above mentioned setting. Further qualitative objectives include: the possible identification of specific building types, the identification of construction methods which may relate to or are unique to the context of Nebraska's historic architecture, the identification of sites worthy of National Register listing, and the expansion of knowledge relative to a specific geographic area within the state context such as ethnic settlement, building technologies and architectural image.

Outline of Qualitative Objectives:

1. To create a community awareness and interest in Historic Preservation and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).
2. The documentation of several significant properties potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as

individual, multiple property, or historic district nominations.

3. To document information pertinent to the NeSHPO Topical Listing of Historic Contexts and associated property types.
4. To complete a comprehensive, conscientious survey which will generate information useful to the planning process and future surveys.
5. The collation of survey data for planning intensive survey work.
6. To record information useful to the local planning decisions of the county when assessing projects affecting historic properties. (Section 106) etc.
7. To record any potential links between a particular ethnic settlement and its associated property types within the survey area.
8. To promote historic preservation through the identification and publication of the historic properties located within the county.
9. To identify properties whose owners may be eligible for various kinds of federal, state, and local assistance in the event the owner pursues the preservation, restoration, or rehabilitation of their historic building(s).

Quantitative Objectives:

- A. _ The recording of an estimated 125 properties in Keya Paha County at the completion of the survey.
- B. The covering of approximately 192,000 acres (300 square miles) in Keya Paha County. In addition, each street of the seven extant Keya Paha County communities will be surveyed using reconnaissance survey methods.
- C. Identification of at least 20 properties worthy of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
- D. Identification of at least one possible Historic District or Multiple Property nomination worthy of National Register pursuit.
- E. Evaluating by the following hierarchy those sites for: a) high potential for significance, b) suspicious buildings--those

buildings that may be of significance, c) no potential in comparison to others, d) those sites not likely to yield any information.

3. Methods of Reconnaissance Survey.

The "mechanical" aspect of reconnaissance historic building surveys will focus primarily upon the documentation process and corresponding methods used in the recording of historic resources. The recording technique is considered of prime importance and it is the attitude of Save America's Heritage to strive for a conscientious effort and accurate method while recording historic resources. To best communicate our intentions, the following discussion on survey methods has been organized into three groups. These are: 1) pre-field research, 2) pre-field activities, and 3) field activities.

Pre-Field Research

Following the selection of the survey geographic boundaries by the NeSHPO, the pre-field research is begun and focuses primarily on the performance of archival research. The main purpose of archival research is to identify the nature of the survey area settlement by culture, geographic location, and time frame. In addition, the archival research should attempt to identify potential themes of architectural, cultural, and historical significance within the survey area, should they exist. While it is acknowledged that the extent and availability of research information varies according to the events and background of the area, the following references will be investigated prior to the reconnaissance survey: locally written county histories, county histories written within a statewide history, existing survey data in the NeSHPO site

files including survey forms, the files of the NSHS photographic collections, centennial publications on community and church histories, archival maps and atlases, newspaper articles concerning a community's built environment, and literature published by local or county historical groups. The majority of these types of publications can be found in the libraries of state and county historical societies. A bibliography of all sources referenced should be maintained and, along with photocopied information, added to the site files. These general data files are organized according to specific counties, local communities, and individual sites. The files are used prior to reconnaissance survey to familiarize the surveyors with the survey area and are consulted again in the field during the survey. Added to the general files are all forms of public correspondence received up to the point the survey is begun.

Due to the absence of an existing Historic Overview report, extensive preparation becomes necessary to satisfactorily develop the concepts of the report. The content of the Historic Overview is considered a prime source of pre-survey information. Therefore, the following is an outline of the methodology to be employed by SAVE's personnel during the composition of the county Historic Overview.

Each Historic Overview report will identify important patterns, events, persons, or cultural values pertaining to the county. It is anticipated that the information within the Historic Overview will aid in the identification of property types associated with each individual theme. In the preparation of the Historic Overview, the following will be considered:

A. Trends in area settlement and development.

- B. Aesthetic and artistic values embodied in architecture, construction technology, or craftsmanship.
- C. Research values or problems relevant to the county, social and physical sciences and humanities, and cultural interests of local communities.
- D. Intangible cultural values of ethnic groups and native American people.

Pre-Field Activities:

The topic of pre-field activities are considered separate from pre-field research on the basis of their more publicly extroverted nature. Save America's Heritage will begin the pre-field activities with the distribution of notices announcing the survey and its intentions to all the general public. This will be done by placing general notices in established commercial and non-commercial facilities of the communities, such as the United States Post Office, grocery stores, coffee shops, etc. Reinforcing this is the dispersal of press releases to all active newspapers existing in the county. The intent of the release is to inform the public of the survey programs and to solicit their input in the identification of historic resources. In addition to this, communication will be established with the local historians and historical societies detaining our intent and welcoming their possible input. Included in this communication will be information concerning pertinent Historic Contexts and the time frame of the survey. The final task of pre-field activity will be the precautionary attempts to eliminate public suspicion. The justifiable suspicion aroused by survey activities will potentially be eliminated through the listing of survey vehicles and personnel with local police departments and county sheriff patrols.

Field Activities--General:

The first step prior to embarking on the survey would be the assembling of the necessary documents used during the recording of historic properties. This includes town plat maps, USGS 7 1/2 minute topographical maps, county road maps, site files and the preparation of the Historic Overview. The recording of the historic properties will be conducted during the reconnaissance survey and will consist of a four step process: 1) identifying structures, 2) mapping locations, 3) recording of SQLE information and 4) photographic documentation. Any supplemental field notes derived from observations or public communications will also be added.

The reconnaissance photography would consist of two photographs per site from opposite 45 degree angles using a wide angle perspective correcting lens. In certain cases, additional photographs of the more significant buildings will be recorded showing environmental setting, architectural details, or construction methods. Descriptions of each site will be recorded as required by the SQLE data entry established by the NeSHPO. For domestic buildings, the supratypological analysis developed by The Midwest Vernacular Architecture Committee will be used in the description process. Photographic field notes will also be kept concerning the aspect of the image, exposure number, and corresponding roll number. In addition to the recording of the information listed above, further research will be conducted on those sites which are considered to have greater significance.

A primary concept in the documentation of historic buildings is the

recognition that different building types may require different recording techniques. Therefore, it is necessary for the surveyor to define the specific types of information most relevant to the property type being recorded.

4. Reconnaissance Survey Biases

Integrity:

To be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a property must possess integrity. Integrity is the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic period. If a property retains the physical characteristics it possessed in the past then it has the capacity to convey association with historical patterns or persons, architectural design, or information about a culture or people. Consequently, the determination of integrity is considered a most important field activity.

For reconnaissance-level documentation, two very basic questions must first be asked. These are:

1. Is the building at least 50 years old?
2. Does it retain its original integrity?

The answer to question number one is usually quite objective, however, the determination of integrity requires some discussion.

It must first be recognized that the degree of integrity exhibited by historic buildings can vary greatly. The principal investigator must first ask, "Does this property reflect its historic character or has it been altered by the application of contemporary building materials and technologies?" In most

instances, the house is the first building scrutinized, especially in the case of town surveys where they represent the majority of extant buildings. However, the importance of "house integrity" is diminished when dealing with buildings located in rural settings. For most cases in Nebraska, this means a farmstead. With the added significance of agriculture related buildings such as hay, horse and livestock barns, granaries, corn cribs, and elevators, a limited amount of alteration to the house should not prevent the site from being documented. In the case where a farmstead contains a large collection of historic farm buildings but a severely altered house, the site will be documented as a farmstead with a noncontributing house. A final case may exist where a single, highly significant, farm related building is located within an otherwise altered farmstead. In this event, Save America's Heritage will document the individual building designating a site number solely to the specific building, structure, or object.

Integrity also appears to play an important role in the field documentation of commercial buildings. Traditionally, buildings used for commerce have been adaptively reused by subsequent generations. These buildings are positioned along a primary local thoroughfare or even a regionally important highway, thus lending appeal to present-day retailers seeking new locations. Often the buildings are physically altered to accommodate new functions and therefore suffer a loss of integrity. With this in mind, only those buildings exhibiting the visual characteristics of their historic period will be documented.

In summary, the determination of integrity will be based upon the historic retention of the following physical characteristics.

- Materials:** Does the building retain the original materials from its period of historic importance.
- Location:** Is the building placed in its original location or has it been moved?
- Design:** Does the building reflect the design aesthetics of its historic period?
- Setting:** Does the building reflect a historic sense of place? Does the historic image and feel still exist?
- Function:** Does the building represent its historic use?

Characteristics of Rural Integrity:

With the concept of Rural Historic Districts added to the National Register process, the principal investigator is forced to develop new visual sensitivities which are sympathetic to the qualities of rural settings. New methods of survey and research must be added to our understanding of both the built and natural environment and the historic relationship between them.

With this in mind, Save America's Heritage will attempt, without contractual obligation, to observe the following characteristics of potential significance to rural historic enclaves:

- * The condition and presence of features, natural and built, which relate to a historic period of importance.
- * The ability of a rural environment to reflect a sense of a past time or place.
- * Potential unifying factors which may link rural properties together.
- * The overall patterns of landscape spatial organization (land forms, natural features, material components).
- * Land-use categories and activities farming, ranching, recreation).
- * Response to natural features (landform affect on material components).
- * Boundaries (cultural, political, or natural).

- * Cluster arrangements (position of material elements within landscape setting).
- * Ecological context.
- * Integrity: Loss of natural features that were historically integral to the rural setting and intrusion of non-contributing features.

5. Anticipated Property Types.

Save America's Heritage anticipates the identification of historic properties in each of the following thirteen categories.

Religion: Churches, church schools, parsonages, and convents

Aesthetic Systems: decorative Arts, sculpture, paintings.

Government: Courthouses, Post Offices, Town Halls.

Association: Fraternal, service and social organizations.

Education: Schools, libraries, museums.

Diversion: Park grounds, theaters, recreational facilities.

Agriculture: hay/horse barns, cattle barns, hog barns, cattle fences, cellars, cob houses, orchards, windmills, windbreaks, pump systems, cattle loafing sheds, hog loafing sheds, farrowing houses, corn cribs, wash houses, summer kitchen, chicken houses, brooder houses, machine shops, implement sheds, granaries, silos, elevators, and stock tank systems.

Processing Industries: Meat packing, dairy, poultry.

Commerce: stores, hotels, elevators.

Transportation: Gas stations, rail depots, motels, auto showrooms.

Communications: Telephone, newspaper, and publishing houses.

Services: Professional, financial and health buildings.

Settlement Systems: Houses, apartments and boarding houses.

6. Evaluation Process and Criteria

Process of Evaluation:

Two primary reasons exist for the evaluation of the resources documented by the Historic Building Survey. The first is the identification of properties worthy of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and the second is the designation of those properties to be preserved by local planning processes. The National Register criterion A, B, C, and D as translated by the Historic Context Reports shall be the basis for evaluation.

The Preliminary Inventory is the primary reference list of all properties within Keya Paha County that are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Therefore, its primary purpose is to define the entire "pool" of historic resources which appear potentially eligible for listing.

The Preliminary inventory also fulfills additional roles which include its use as a guide for suggesting future work in the study area and the identification of building types which are no longer extant or never existed within the study area. The analysis of the inventoried data may also provide the NeSHPO with answers to the following questions:

1. What percentage of the total number of properties surveyed were worthy of intensive survey on the basis of their association to an identified historic theme or to a preliminarily identified Historic Context?
 2. What percentage of the total number of properties surveyed were worthy of intensive survey as non-historic context sites?
 3. What percentage of those properties noted during the field survey as potentially significant were actually found to be significant?
- Save America's Heritage originally viewed the assembling of the

Preliminary Inventory as a two-step process consisting of survey and review. However, as outlined below, a refined methodology has evolved from previous survey experience which now involves several levels of evaluation. What has emerged is a more in-depth compilation of potential NRHP sites using a variety of historic and contemporary resources.

1. Initial base list of potentially eligible properties derived from review of reconnaissance survey documentation.
2. Review of contact sheets and property descriptions performed to add or delete base-list properties.
3. Review all published county, church, and centennial histories, with particular emphasis on historic building citations concerning the base-list properties.
4. Contact local historical societies for input on histories of base-list properties.
5. Second base-list review with application of criterion to derive final lists of sites which:
 - a) are strongly recommended for NRHP listing, and b) may not be strongly recommended for listing but contribute to the character of the historic built environment.

Criteria For Evaluation:

If the ultimate goal of the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey is indeed the identification of properties worthy of National Register listing, then the definitions and criteria established by the NRHP become the primary concepts by which the significance of a historic property is evaluated.

The National Register defines a historic property as a district, site, building, structure, or object significant in American history, architecture, engineering, archeology, and culture. A historic context is a broad pattern of historical development in a community or its region, that may be represented by

historic resources. The use of historic contexts provides a mechanism for translating the broad National Register criteria into locally meaningful terms. For example, the National Register criteria allow any property that is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past to be regarded as eligible for listing, but it is the historic contexts of the area that define who such people were (p. 55, National Register Bulletin, No. 24, V. 5, Department of the interior). With this in mind, the National Register criteria translated into local meaning by the Historic Context Reports are as follows:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

APPENDIX 3: Supratype Master List for Keya Paha County.

S. TYPE NUMBER	HSE SH	HSE SZ	HSE HT	HSE RF	HSE OR	#	% KP
S.1	L	0.5	1.0	G	LA	1	0.9
S.2	L	0.5	1.0	G	LO	3	2.6
S.3	L	1.0	1.0	G	LO	1	0.9
S.4	L	1.0	1.5	G	LO	2	1.7
S.5	L	1.5	1.5	G	LA	1	0.9
S.6	R	0.5	1.0	G	LA	7	6.1
S.7	R	0.5	1.0	G	LO	2	1.7
S.8	R	0.5	1.0	Gg	LO	1	0.9
S.9	R	1.0	1.0	G	LA	15	13.0
S.10	R	1.0	1.0	G	LO	10	8.7
S.11	R	1.0	1.0	Ga	LA	2	1.7
S.12	R	1.0	1.0	H	LO	2	1.7
S.13	R	1.0	1.5	G	LA	8	7.0
S.14	R	1.0	1.5	G	LO	5	4.3
S.15	R	1.0	1.5	Ggj	LO	1	0.9
S.16	R	1.5	1.0	G	LA	5	4.3
S.17	R	1.5	1.0	G	LO	14	12.2
S.18	R	1.5	1.0	Gj	LA	1	0.9
S.19	R	1.5	1.0	H	LA	1	0.9
S.20	R	1.5	1.0	H	LO	6	5.2
S.21	R	1.5	1.0	Hg	LO	1	0.9
S.22	R	1.5	1.0	Ht	LA	1	0.9
S.23	R	1.5	1.5	G	LA	5	4.3
S.24	R	1.5	1.5	G	LO	6	5.2
S.25	R	1.5	1.5	H	LA	1	0.9
S.26	R	1.5	2.0	H	LA	1	0.9
S.27	R	2.0	1.0	G	LA	1	0.9
S.28	R	2.0	1.5	G	LO	1	0.9
S.29	R	2.0	1.5	Gg	LA	1	0.9
S.30	R	2.0	2.0	H	LO	1	0.9
S.31	S	1.5	1.0	H	NO	16	5.2
S.32	S	1.5	1.5	H	LA	1	0.9
S.33	T	1.0	1.0	G	LA	1	0.9
S.34	T	1.0	1.0	G	LO	1	0.9

APPENDIX 4.:**Index of Abbreviations**

The following index attempts to explain the abbreviations used by the survey team while recording historic buildings in the nine county area of the northern Nebraska Sand Hills survey project. These abbreviations were developed as a means of expediting the survey recording process. The need for abbreviations was especially necessary in the recording of rural-based historic properties. In these cases, every effort was made to note each building, structure and object which contributed to the historic character of the property. Many of the abbreviations were developed by the NeSHPO during their former surveys of historic buildings throughout Nebraska. The remaining group of abbreviations were developed by Save America's Heritage with the approval of the NeSHPO.

Fr.	= Frame	Addn.	= Addition
Br.	= Brick	Cent.	= Central
Conc. Blk.	= Concrete Block	Enc.	= Enclosed
Frmhse.	= Farmhouse	Att.	= Attached
Frmstd.	= Farmstead	Perpend.	= Perpendicular
Hse.	= House	Symm.	= Symmetrical
S.K.	= Summer Kitchen	Lg.	= Large
Ckn. Hse.	= Chicken House	G.W.D.	= Gable Wall Dormer
Gar.	= Garage	Gab.	= Gable
Gran.	= Granary	Drmr.	= Dormer
D.T. Gran.	= Drive-thru Granary	Aban.	= Abandoned
D.T. Crib	= Drive-thru Crib	Det.	= Deteriorated
L.S.	= Loafing Shed	Outbldg.	= Outbuilding

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